

Bombs found on Moscow subway

MOSCOW (R) — Two unexploded bombs have been found on the Moscow underground and TASS news agency said the motive could have been political extremism. The TASS report was the first for several years of bombs on the Moscow metro. It cautioned that nationalist unrest in Georgia and Armenia showed the high price paid for extremism. One device, found by passengers Thursday evening in an underground train at the Pavlovskaya station, had been set to go off at 10:30 p.m. (1630 GMT), TASS said. A second, found at the Vnukovo station, had no timer. "Is this... not a criminal consequence of the extremist appeals of some 'leaders' deprived of reason and elementary humanity?" the official news agency asked in a commentary reminiscent of attacks on dissidents in the 1970s. "It is no secret that recently at different meetings and gatherings there were appeals for 'struggle' which are being interpreted widely and freely," it added. "Events in Armenia and Georgia showed the high price all of us must pay for this." TASS gave no proof for its suggestion that bombers acted from political motives.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرابطة

Iraq warns Israel

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's air force commander has warned Israel against attacking strategic targets in Iraq and said Baghdad would retaliate if necessary. "Israel will make a big mistake if it attacked Iraq," Air Marshal Hamid Shaaban was quoted as saying in the English-language Baghdad Observer daily Friday. "It will lose a great deal if it tries to launch the kind of flagrant aggression it did in 1981," Shaaban said in a reference to an Israeli air strike that knocked out Iraq's French-built Osirac nuclear reactor eight years ago. Israel claimed that the reactor west of Baghdad was close to producing nuclear weapons. Iraq denied that. Shaaban warned that Iraq has taken "all appropriate measures to prevent an Israeli attack." He did not elaborate or say whether Iraq would launch a retaliatory attack. Shaaban stressed that Israeli threats were not new and said they were aimed at distorting facts to give the impression Iraq intended to attack other countries in the region. Iraq's Foreign Ministry has branded Western news reports of an Iraqi missile buildup as "baseless and fictitious." But Shaaban noted: "Israel knows that Iraq has substantial political, economic and military potentials, and this is a source of concern to it."

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Jordan, U.S. to work together for Mideast peace

King concludes Washington visit

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor left Washington Friday after a three-day working visit to the American capital, where the King held talks with U.S. President George Bush and senior administration officials on Middle East peace efforts, Jordanian-American relations and other issues of mutual interest.

Their Majesties were seen off with a farewell ceremony with full honours and attended by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and senior U.S. officials.

Earlier Friday, the King met with Defence Secretary Richard Cheney and discussed with him issues of mutual interest, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. The

meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker as well as senior Defence Department officials.

Petra said the King was expected to attend a celebration at Boston University where he was

to receive a honorary doctorate.

During his stay in Washington, the King also held talks with Vice-President Dan Quayle and a number of American congressmen.

The King discussed Middle East peace effort and bilateral relations with Baker Thursday. The U.S. secretary of state reaffirmed that Washington was keenly interested in further strengthening relations with Jordan and extending economic and other assistance to the Kingdom, Petra said.

Following the meeting, the King made statement to the press expressing his happiness at the outcome of the meeting and his visit to the United States.

The King referred to his friendship with Bush which, he said had grown and developed over the years. The King expressed

hope that Jordan and the U.S. would work together in a candid and clear manner towards achieving just and durable peace in the Middle East.

The King said that Jordan would be working closely with the United States and the other concerned parties to achieve that goal.

"To sum it up, I feel happier and more optimistic on this visit than I have done for many, many years that have passed," King Hussein told reporters.

Bush, interviewed by reporters at the White House, sounded a similar note.

"I think King Hussein was right yesterday when he said time was right for some action," the U.S. leader said. "Now we've got to assess where we go, what the next step is."

The King said that he felt that

the Bush administration was keen on achieving progress towards peace.

Referring to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's proposals on holding elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the King said he was not in a position to comment on such proposals at the moment because these proposals should be presented to the Palestinian people and their legitimate representative. But, he said, it could be useful to consider the election idea within the whole process which should be aimed towards reaching a final and comprehensive settlement.

"Elections, an expression of self-determination, whatever, can be an element within the context of a process leading to a comprehensive solution to the problem. It is not an end in itself."

Government explains events in south, urges citizens' cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — The government Friday issued the following statement on the incidents that took place in the southern regions of Jordan in the past few days:

In the course of implementing the new national policies designed to enhance economic stability and readjustment to the new economic conditions, the government has taken a series of economic measures to reduce the deficits in the balance of payments and budget. These were taken in order to bolster the economic structure and enable the country to depend more and more on its national revenues.

In order to facilitate this process, the government held negotiations with a team from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) with the aim of rescheduling external debts and to obtain necessary facilities to help stimulate the national economy. To achieve this goal, there must be an increase in local revenues which in turn calls for a readjustment of the tariffs and prices of fuel and other non-essential commodities and a re-examination of the fees for the registration of vehicles.

As the government was considering the side-effect of these decisions and to find solutions for them — including a reconsideration of the public transport fares — a group of drivers in Ma'an took rash actions on April 16 in order to express their protest over the lack of a tariff for land transport. This group resorted to inciting school students in Ma'an and townspeople to stage a demonstration against the rise in prices.

"This demonstration was later transformed into a deliberate act of sabotage and random damage to public and private installations in Ma'an. This was accompanied by a riot marked with violence, with the rioters attacking police stations, government-owned vehicles and a number of public utilities in the city.

Concerned authorities moved rapidly to deal with the situation and to contact local citizens to put an end to rioting and acts of sabotage. These authorities also embarked on the task of identifying the sources and causes of incidents through gatherings and dialogue and urged the public to preserve order and to safeguard

security and protect public installations which had been set up to provide service to the public.

But, in the evening of that day and the following morning, rioters and hoodlums in Ma'an, Karak and Tafleh resumed their disturbances, which spread to other areas. Firearms were used and directed at police stations and government departments, leading to the destruction of the telecommunications network and the disruption of electric supplies to the area and damage to public and private property.

Against all this, the security authorities exercised the highest level of self-control so as to protect citizens' lives and their property. But on the following day, the rioters resumed firing at security men, killing one policeman and injuring 12 others. Four people were also killed and six others were injured as a result of indiscriminate firing by rioters who caused damage to public property, including hospitals, schools, law courts, post offices, water stations, stores and others.

The concerned authorities are now involved in the task of identifying persons behind these painful incidents, and studying their motives. The authorities are being supported in their mission by understanding citizens who have expressed concern over safeguarding public utilities which provide service to the local people. What has happened is indeed painful and deplorable and the method used to express protests over the rise in prices is unusual for our people who have always opted for channels of dialogue that reflected their keenness on preserving the country's security and peace.

The government, which voices its confidence in the citizens' awareness and their keenness on safeguarding security and stability in Jordan, underlines the fact that it will not be lenient with any elements trying to exploit the present circumstances or tamper with the Kingdom's stability and security.

The government calls on citizens to cooperate with the concerned authorities to preserve peace and restore normal life that we have always enjoyed in this country.

Arab leaders voice support

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Friday received phone calls from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Qatari Crown Prince and Defence Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani enquiring about the situation in Jordan. Hussein voiced Iraq's full support to Jordan in all fields and wished the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity and its leadership every success.

Sheikh Hamad also stressed his country's support for Jordan.

On Thursday, the Regent received similar calls from King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah and Bahraini Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Ibn Isa Al Khalifa.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Friday receives Moroccan envoy Ahmad Osman (Petra photo)

Regent receives Moroccan message, welcomes summit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan welcomed Friday a call by King Hassan of Morocco for an Arab League summit next month.

"Jordan always welcomes such Arab League meetings as part of its conviction that (they) are a basic channel to discuss issues facing the Arab Nation," Petra quoted His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, as telling Moroccan Parliamentary Speaker Ahmad Osman.

Osman gave the Regent a message addressed to His Majesty King Hussein from King Hassan about his proposal to convene a summit in Morocco at the end of the fasting month of Ramadan.

King Hassan has sent aides to several Arab capitals to seek support for a summit to discuss the Arab-Israeli conflict and fighting in Lebanon. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Thursday the summit was planned for May 20.

The Regent noted in his talks with Osman that Jordan had always been a staunch advocate of Arab unity and had always advo-

ated continued inter-Arab consultations.

The Arab leaders, he added, are confronted with difficult political, economic and social issues for which coordination is needed.

The Regent said summit was a healthy development and was bound to serve the Arab Nation at all levels.

Present at the meeting was Upper House Speaker Ahmad Lawzi, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, and other officials.

Osman, arrived in Amman Thursday evening with the mes-

sage to the King. He left Friday.

Arab diplomats said last week King Hassan had sent several aides, including senior political adviser Ahmad Keda Guedira, to sound out Arab leaders on an emergency summit on the Palestinian question.

Arab foreign ministers are also due to hold an emergency Arab League meeting in Tunis on Lebanon Tuesday or Wednesday.

Diplomat earlier said Egypt would be invited to Morocco even though it had not yet been readmitted to the Arab League.

Yaqoub Khan arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Pakistani Foreign Minister Shahabzadeh Yaqoub Khan arrived here Friday on a two-day visit to Jordan during which he is expected to be received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

Yaqoub Khan said he was pleased to visit Jordan with which his country maintains very strong ties in all fields. He said his country cherishes affection and respect for His Majesty King Hussein, Prince Hassan and the Jordanian people.

Acting Foreign Minister Marwan Dudin and senior Jordanian officials received the Pakistani minister upon his arrival.

Israelis bar hundreds from Al Aqsa prayers

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army and police blocked hundreds of Palestinian worshippers from entering occupied Jerusalem Friday, while a group of Jewish settlers marched here with unfurled Israeli flags to stress Israeli control over the Holy City.

Police stepped up their presence around the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem's Old City. Muslim officials a day earlier called for Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to come for Friday prayers at the site, challenging Israeli efforts to restrict the numbers of worshippers to prevent violence.

Police and army roadblocks were set up along the roads linking Jerusalem with the West Bank. Troops stopped and searched Arab-owned cars and pulled passengers off Arab buses. Young men were ordered to go back while elderly people were allowed to continue on their way to Jerusalem.

On the road leading to Hebron and Bethlehem, Palestinians were turned back just as a group of some 50 armed Jewish settlers, accompanied by police and army cars, marched by, loudly singing religious songs.

"This is... to show that Jews can walk throughout the 'land of Israel' without fear, that this is our country. It's a response to what happened in the last 16 months," said a settler.

But Jamal, a 35-year-old Palestinian who watched the settlers pass, noted: "They want to show us that this is their land, but they have to carry all these guns. It shows that they are afraid of us."

In Jerusalem, hundreds of troops were deployed around Al Aqsa's hilltop site, compared to the usual 90. Two police snipers were seen on rooftops looking into mosque compound and a helicopter circled overhead during prayers.

Police were searching grocery bags and checking identity cards of all Palestinians asking to enter the compound, turning back all residents of the occupied West Bank. Those allowed to enter turned over their identity cards to police.

Below the mosque, about 300 Jewish worshippers were seen praying at the western wall. At least 30 police and paramilitary border police vehicles were

parked in the surrounding plaza. Young Muslims denied permission to enter the mosque prayed in the narrow alleyways of Jerusalem's walled Old City.

In the West Bank, a 40-year-old Palestinian was beaten to death by unknown assailants in the village of Artas, near Bethlehem, on suspicion of collaborating with Israel's secret police, hospital officials and Palestinian sources said.

Musallam Mahmoud Salim was brought to Jerusalem's Mokassed Hospital during the night and died of internal bleeding.

He was the fourth Palestinian alleged to have cooperated with the Israeli authorities to be killed this week.

Also Friday, the army confirmed that a 17-year-old Palestinian from the Gaza Strip was killed a day before. Arab reports identified the victim as Ibrahim Mahmoud Abu Shahma.

A spokeswoman for the military command said the youth was shot by plastic bullets after he hurled a firebomb at an Israeli patrol in the Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis. There were no Israeli casualties in Thursday's clash.

U.N. overwhelmingly condemns Israel

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The General Assembly has overwhelmingly condemned Israel for human rights abuses and demanded an end to excessive gunfire and restrictions on Palestinian worship in the occupied territories.

The vote in the 159-member assembly on the harshly worded resolution Thursday was 129-2, with one abstention by Liberia. Several nations were absent.

The United States and Israel voted against the resolution. The European Community voted in favour of the resolution.

General Assembly resolutions are not binding and reflect only the collective recommendations of the international community.

The resolution — backed by Arab, non-aligned and socialist countries — expresses "pro-

found shock" at the recent killing of four Palestinians by Israeli soldiers and says Israel violates Palestinians' freedom of worship and the Geneva Convention of 1949 on the treatment of civilians in time of war.

The resolution demands Israel immediately halt violations of the convention and respect all Palestinian rights and asks the Security Council

urgently to review the situation. During the debate, Western European countries, Australia, Canada, Japan and others deplored Israel's harsh practices.

During the two-day debate, speakers cited the raid April 13 on the town of Nahalin in which four people were killed and dozens of others wounded by Israeli forces. Restrictions on Muslim attendance at mosques during the holy period of

Ramadan also were cited as violations of Palestinian rights. Soviet U.N. Ambassador Alexander M. Belongov cited the "brutal treatment" of Palestinians in Nahalin and said Israel "has committed flagrant and massive violations of human rights."

"How much more blood must be shed until the Palestinians can exercise their right to self-determination?" he asked.

Arab peace force for Lebanon said planned

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Intensive contacts between Arab governments are underway on forming an Arab peacekeeping force to intervene to end the fighting in Lebanon, Kuwaiti newspapers said Friday.

The reports in the usually reliable Al Qabas and Al Anbaa dailies came as foreign ministers of the 22-member Arab League prepared for an emergency meeting in Tunis Wednesday to discuss measures to end Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war.

As gunners resumed shelling around Beirut Friday, Al Qabas said the peacekeeping force could number "several hundred Arab officers and troops from six or seven Arab states."

It did not name the countries involved, but said they were "inside and outside" a six-member Arab League committee seeking an end to the Lebanese strike. Sami Khatib, commander of mostly Muslim units of Lebanon's divided army, announced that Jounieh and Beirut ports "remain under blockade" as long as army commander Michel Aoun maintains his siege of illegal ports south of Beirut run by militias. Aoun's blockade, in a move

aimed at restoring government control long eroded by the powerful militias, triggered off the latest round of fighting in Lebanon's civil war March 8.

Khatib's 22,000-strong forces have not been involved in the fighting so far.

Tens of thousands of Beirut residents, fearing that the artillery blitz would erupt again, spent Friday searching for food and water.

Sporadic shelling spurred on the frightened civilians after an eerie lull in the battles.

The firing jeopardised plans for a ferry to pick up 1,000 civilians from small boats off Jounieh and for a French tanker to dock to refuel power stations.

Blockades by both sides have left 85 per cent of Lebanon without mains power since Sunday. More than 300,000 people are estimated to have fled Beirut to safer areas of Lebanon or to have gone abroad.

Aoun has asked Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to help resolve the Lebanese conflict and Arafat has sent the Arab League a plan.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) news agency

Wafa reported Friday that Aoun had written to Arafat Wednesday.

"We call on you to take a clear and decisive stand to bring about Lebanese salvation and restore to Arab solidarity its effectiveness and credibility," Aoun was quoted as saying.

The same day Arafat gave Arab League Secretary General Chadi Kibi what Wafa called "a Palestinian peace initiative designed to deal with the dangerous situation in Lebanon and to end the suffering there."

The agency gave no details of the initiative but quoted the PLO representative in Tunis, Hakam Balawi, as saying the situation demanded effective guarantees for a ceasefire and a disengagement of the forces fighting in Lebanon.

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar called on the international community to provide urgent humanitarian assistance and said immediate needs totalled \$92 million.

"Hundreds of thousands of people are desperately short of water, electricity, fuel, food and medicine," he said in a statement.

Polls must be tied to pullout — Arafat

NEW YORK (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has said he would accept elections in the occupied territories under international supervision before a complete Israeli withdrawal, but only if they were part of a package that led to complete Palestinian self-determination.

Arafat rejected Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's proposal for elections of Palestinians who would merely supervise local autonomy and negotiate with Israelis about the future status of the territories.

"The election (is) not followed by negotiations. The election is a part of exercising of our people for their self-determination," Arafat said in remarks broadcast on U.S. television Thursday. Spelling out his latest thinking on proposed elections, Arafat said Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would only accept them if they were not supervised by Israel and led to a withdrawal of Israeli forces.

In the interview, taped in Tunis Tuesday, Arafat said the elections would not have to wait for an Israeli pullout, which could be the final part of such a package.

"If this can be accepted, we can have a schedule. Definitely, I know that they (the Israelis) will not move. The best that we can have — a schedule for the whole operation from A to Z, a package deal."

Arafat said the elections, under possible United Nations supervision, would lead to a Western-style democratic Palestinian state.

"We are human beings. And we have a right to live as all other people are living all over the world. We are fed up to be rats."

He said the recent international approaches to defusing tensions in Namibia and Afghanistan both involved lengthy timetables that could serve as a model for a Palestinian solution.

He said he was ready to meet with Shamir, who he referred to repeatedly as "Mr. No" for his refusal to pull out of the territories.

Gulf talks delayed

GENEVA (R) — A scheduled meeting of the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers aimed at reviving Gulf peace talks was postponed until Saturday, a U.N. spokeswoman said Friday.

She said U.N. officials had been in contact all afternoon with both parties "to clarify certain things."

She did not elaborate but the delay fuelled speculation that political turmoil in Iran had cast a shadow on the new round of talks.

Asked if reports on the arrest of alleged spies working for the United States in the Iranian armed forces could affect Iran's delegation, U.N. Gulf mediator Jan Eliasson told Reuters: "For us, it's business as usual."

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati held an unscheduled one-hour meeting with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Friday after

Iran's Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani confirmed reports of a purge in the top ranks of the navy (see page 2).

But U.N. officials declined to say whether the meeting was linked with the arrests.

The Iran-Iraq talks are the fourth round of so-called "proximity talks" since a ceasefire last August ended eight years of fighting in the Gulf.

The two sides are deadlocked over which provisions of a U.N. peace plan should be given top priority.

Iran wants Iraqi troops to evacuate Iranian territory still occupied despite the ceasefire. Iraq insists the Shatt Al Arab waterway, its main outlet to the sea, must be dredged first.

Velayati and Iraq's Tariq Aziz held a first session Thursday and had agreed to meet again Friday to try and break an eight-month

deadlock on establishing lasting peace between their countries.

Iraq's ruling Baath Party newspaper said Friday that Baghdad would not compromise on sovereignty over the Shatt Al Arab waterway.

"The Shatt Al Arab river has been an Iraqi river throughout history and will remain so," said an editorial in Al Thawra.

"Iraq's right to exercise its sovereignty over it is not a subject for negotiations."

Iraq wants the waterway, its main outlet to the sea, cleared of war debris at once. Iran has said Iraqi troops must first leave 2,600 square kilometres of its territory.

The government daily Al Junhuriya warned Iran not to violate the ceasefire. "We sincerely call on (Iran) to turn this round of talks into serious and fruitful (negotiations)," it said.

Iran: U.S. 'spies' uncovered

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's parliament speaker said Friday that several U.S. spy networks plotting to overthrow Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's fundamentalist government have been uncovered, including cells in the navy's upper echelons, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said Hashemi Rafsanjani announced during a sermon at the weekly Friday prayer session at Tehran University that a large number of the alleged spies have been arrested in recent weeks.

He said they included "big American spies," who were now being interrogated, and that the arrests had exposed the whole Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in the Middle East.

Rafsanjani said the Americans "should have realised that... this country is no place for coup d'etats."

He said some were navy personnel, who transmitted intelligence on Iranian naval deployments to the U.S. navy "when they were fighting us in the Gulf."

He said that the Iranian ship Iran Ajr, shot up and boarded by U.S. forces in the Gulf Sept. 21, 1987, as it was laying mines, was "betrayed by these very people."

Rafsanjani did not say how many people had been rounded up because "the Americans should not know how many of them have been trapped. There are too many."

But he stressed that the navy officers who had allegedly spied for the Americans "are fortunately still alive."

He claimed the Americans "have announced these people have been executed, because they are not aware of their whereabouts."

Rafsanjani did not name the navy men. But dissident Iranian sources reported recently that



Hashemi Rafsanjani

three senior navy officers were executed in early April for plotting to overthrow the government.

They were identified as Kianoosh Hakimi, commander of naval communications and joint operations with the air force, Gahreman Malezadeh, naval representative at the chief of staff's office, and Farhad Riahi, commander of the airborne units.

The sources said that about 20 other pro-Western navy officers had been arrested for alleged spying.

IRNA said the thousands of worshippers in around the campus in downtown Tehran chanted: "American spies must be executed."

Rafsanjani vowed that "God's decree will be carried out" and that the alleged spies would be punished.

He did not elaborate. But Iranian authorities have, by their own and other accounts, executed hundreds of political dissidents and alleged drug smugglers in recent months.

IRNA said Rafsanjani disclosed that "numerous espionage dens and networks," set up since the 1979 revolution, had been discovered "in various places and sensitive parts of the country."

He added: "We have sustained losses from them during the war and in recent days."

Rafsanjani thanked the Ministry of Information, which covers Iran's internal security, for uncovering the networks.

Rafsanjani, widely expected to

be elected Iran's next president in August, gave the first official confirmation of high level arrests in the armed forces against a background of political turmoil.

Iran's 86-year-old supreme religious leader, Khomeini, no longer has a recognised successor and foreign analysts believe a major power struggle is taking place.

Rafsanjani said the story about a coup had been circulated by the Americans who learned a crack-down on their spy networks was in the offing.

Rafsanjani said the spies would "speak to the public through the mass media and explain what sort of works they were doing," IRNA reported.

He said the United States had resorted to every means to create obstacles in the way of the Iranian revolution.

"They (the Americans) had invested on these (spies), had trained them... and kept them in special places for particular purposes," IRNA quoted him as saying.

He said the arrests had cleared the way "for taking proper action in the society."

Kabul comes under barrage of rockets

KABUL (Agencies) — The Afghan capital came under attack from a barrage of rockets Friday, and initial reports said at least two children were killed.

A spokesman for the Afghan news agency Bakhtar said at least 12 rockets fired from surrounding hills hit different parts of Kabul.

The city was hit Thursday by at least two rockets, one of which scored a direct hit on the Soviet embassy compound, shattering windows.

There were no injuries in the Soviet compound, but Moscow Friday threatened retaliation for the attack.

A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said there was no doubt the missile had been

aimed at the embassy.

"We and the Afghan government will find corresponding means to curb encroachments of this kind," Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told a news conference.

"It was only by mere luck that no embassy official was in the area hit by the rocket," he said.

"We shall not permit the threatening of the lives of Soviet citizens — diplomats, experts extending assistance to the Afghan people and pilots delivering humanitarian aid to Kabul residents."

The embassy has housed all 250 Soviet citizens left in Afghanistan since the last Soviet troops withdrew Feb. 15. The Soviet news agency

TASS reported in Moscow, "it was only by mere luck that no resident of the Soviet embassy compound was hurt."

The United States closed its embassy in Kabul before Soviet troops completed their withdrawal Feb. 15. Since then, insurgents have attacked a military convoy north of Kabul and killed 50 government servicemen.

Neither side said when the fighting occurred, but government reports usually concern the previous 24 hours. Each side consistently exaggerates the other's losses, and their claims cannot be verified.

Radio Kabul reported Thursday that rebel rocket attacks on Jalalabad killed two people. The guerrillas reportedly were

blasting the city from key positions to the south and east, said Radio Kabul. The radio also said four people were hurt Thursday when rockets blasted Kabul.

Jalalabad's fall would be considered a coup for the rebels, who have not taken any of Afghanistan's key cities.

In Islamabad, the president of the guerrillas' new government-in-exile Thursday offered Afghanistans' President Najibullah protection if he resigns and hands power over to an interim guerrilla government.

Sibghatullah Mojaddidi said, "We will give him protection. If they (the ruling Marxists) transfer power to our government then we will give them protection and amnesty."

He did not say if Najibullah would qualify for amnesty. He only offered him protection.

Mojaddidi was responding to Najibullah's offer Wednesday to resign if it would end the decade-long war.

Yahya Nuroz, the provisional government's military chief of staff, said in Islamabad that the government-in-exile will begin receiving arms directly from its supporters rather than through Pakistan.

"The Mujahedeen (holy warriors) will directly receive the next consignment of arms," possibly within two weeks, he said, but he would not name the suppliers.

The United States is a leading arms supplier to the guerrillas.

U.N. airlifts food into southern Sudan

NAIROBI (R) — The United Nations began its first major famine relief operation in rebel-held areas of southern Sudan Friday — an airlift of food into the southeastern town of Torit.

The U.N. tried to send a convoy of food trucks to Torit from Kenya earlier this week, but it was forced to turn back after being ambushed by gunmen who blew up one truck and killed eight people.

U.N. spokesman Paul Mitchell told Reuters in Nairobi that the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) began an airlift of food into Torit from Entebbe airport in Uganda Friday following a reconnaissance flight to inspect Torit airstrip Thursday.

The airlift had begun with a C-130 Hercules transport plane which would fly three times a day into the rebel-held town carrying 14 tonnes of maize on each trip, he said.

Mitchell said a WFP convoy of over 40 trucks also left the Ugandan capital Kampala for rebel-held areas of southern Sudan.

The convoy would travel with a military escort through rebel-infested areas of northern Uganda and was expected to reach the Sudanese border town of Nimule Saturday.

Mitchell said it would drop some of its food at Nimule, which was captured by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) last month, and would then explore the possibility of continuing overland along rough roads to Torit, about 150 kilometres to the northeast.

He said the convoy would also try to assess the state of the 280-kilometre road from Nimule to Juba, the government-held capital of southern Sudan, with a view to supplying it overland from Uganda through rebel territory.

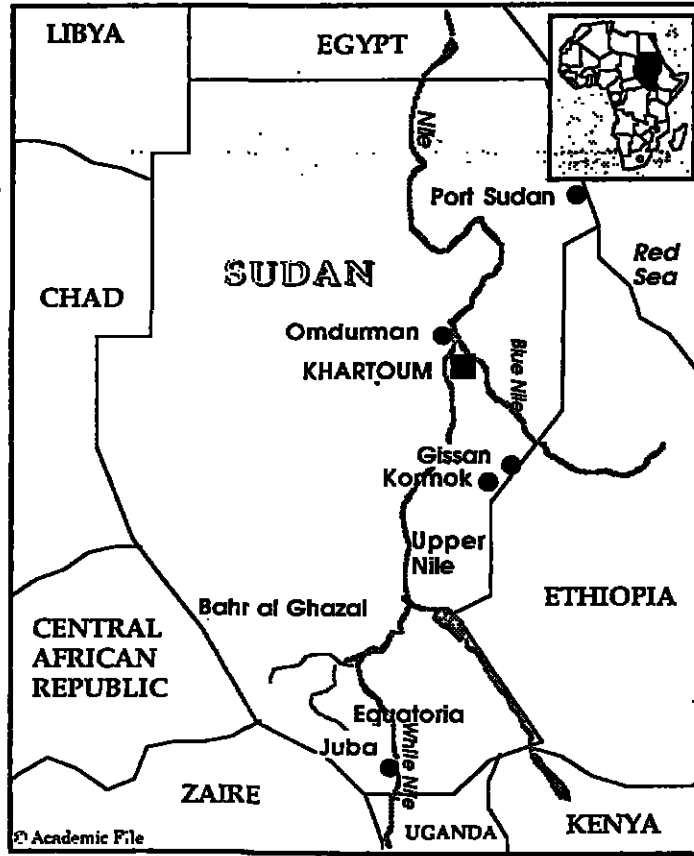
Juba has been besieged by the SPLA for the past year and its 275,000 inhabitants currently rely on an airlift of food from Entebbe, Nairobi and Khartoum for survival.

Last month the United Nations launched a \$132 million emergency relief programme to move over 100,000 tonnes of food into war-torn southern Sudan to prevent up to 100,000 people dying from starvation in the region.

It initially planned to transport most of this food into the region during April before the rainy season renders most roads and many airstrips unusable.

But operation "Lifeline Sudan" has been slow in starting and U.N. officials now say that most of the food will have to be moved in slowly and expensively by air over the next six months.

The United Nations plans to move 25,000 tonnes of food into rebel-held areas.



WHO to discuss PLO entry bid with U.S.

GENEVA (Agencies) — The head of the World Health Organisation (WHO) said Friday he would seek talks with U.S. President George Bush to defuse a possible crisis over a Palestinian bid to join specialised U.N. agencies.

Hiroshi Nakajima, director-general of the 166-member body, said he had received a formal application from Yasser Arafat for the Palestine Liberation

Organisation (PLO) to join WHO as a full member. It currently holds observer status.

He told reporters after a meeting Thursday with the Palestinian leader that the PLO application posed a number of political and legal problems.

He would not comment on reports that he had received clear signals from Washington that the Bush administration could withdraw financing if the

PLO was voted in as full member.

"But I did express concern over the legal and political implications," Nakajima said.

He said he would seek meetings with Bush and Secretary of State James Baker before the WHO annual meeting starting May 8. The PLO's application is on the agenda.

The United States provides a quarter of the agency's budget and there are fears in WHO

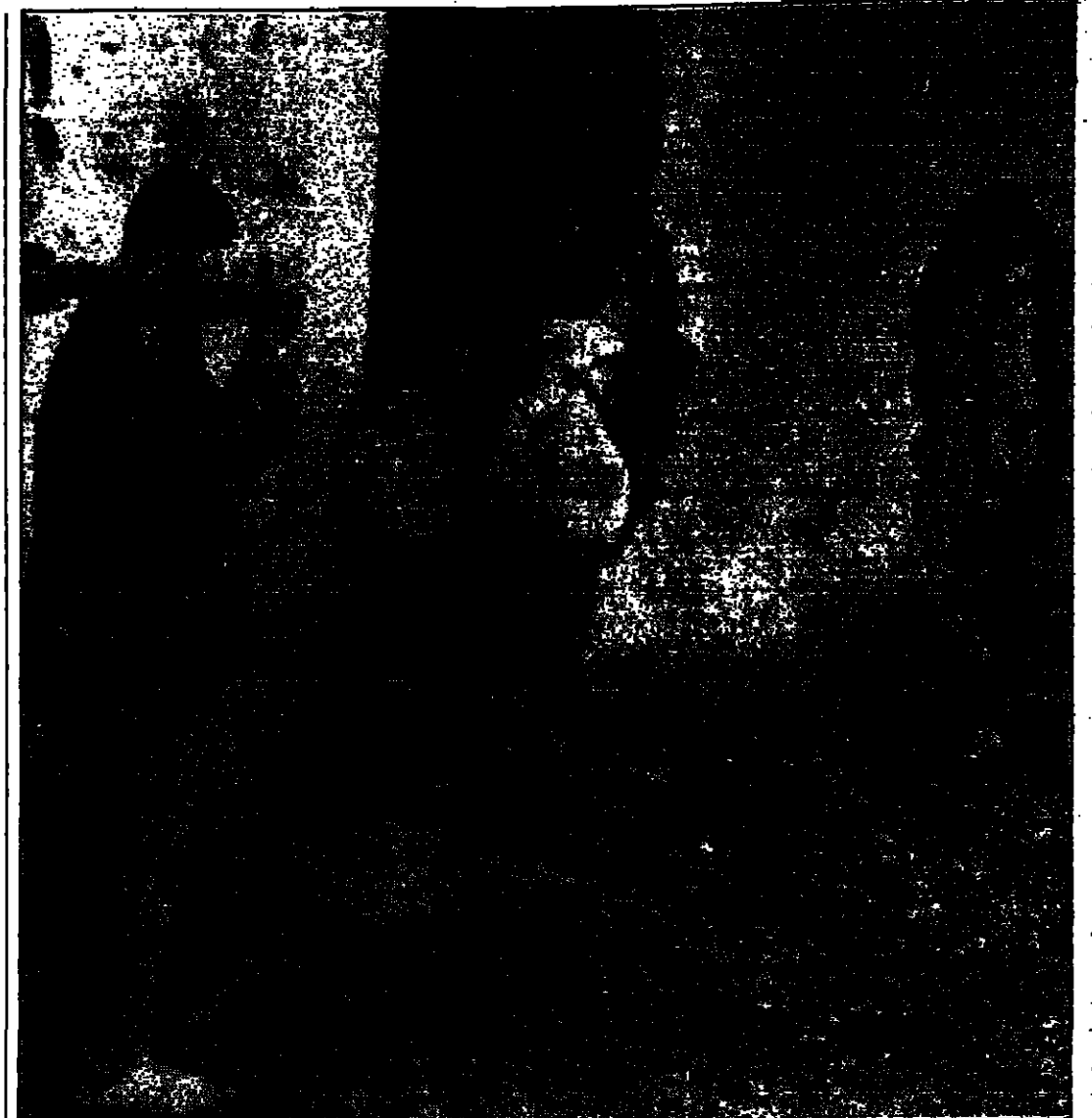
circles that the U.S. threat, if carried out, could jeopardise the organisation's worldwide activities.

Nakajima said Arafat, who told reporters the PLO was seeking members of all specialised U.N. agencies, who told him of his desire to see Israel remain a full member of WHO, alongside Palestine.

If the application to WHO is accepted at the agency's annual

assembly next month, it could pave the way for Palestinian bids for full membership in other United Nations bodies.

After a meeting in Geneva Thursday with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the PLO leader told journalists: "We want the PLO and the State of Palestine, as we are now members of the U.N., to participate with all the activities of the U.N. and we have the rights."



A woman escapes with her children from the firing in Beirut

Lebanon's arithmetic of rivalry adds up to horror

By Donna Abu Nasr
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — The day Lebanon's civil war began its 15th year, 69 people were killed or wounded. Most were civilians.

The casualties were caused by a staggering 25,000 shells and rockets that police — based on statistics compiled by precincts, civil defence, fire and rescue services — said were fired by rival forces that day, April 13.

The proportion of artillery to casualties was about average in the daily battles between mainly Christian units of Lebanon's army, long-fractured along sectarian lines, and an alliance of Syrian forces and Lebanese militiamen.

In Lebanon's grisly arithmetic, it takes an estimated \$700,000 worth of ammunition to kill or wound one person, usually an unarmed non-combatant, while also inflicting damage, havoc and panic.

It costs General Michael Aoun's army units about the same to lob a broadside salvo of 155-millimetre howitzer shells.

But there's no shortage of hardware or ammunition among Lebanon's warring factions, who are well-supplied by regional powers who use Lebanon to fight their rivals by proxy.

It's a strange war. There are no ground assaults. No one gains territory or loses it. Both sides, deeply entrenched, just hammer each other, usually indiscriminately, with long-range weapons, trying to out-terrorise the other.

The current round of fighting, the worst in four years, erupted March 8. Since then, by police count, more than 270 people have been killed and nearly 1,000 wounded.

Despite the intensity of the shelling, with 50 shells and rockets a minute falling in the worst barrages, the casualty toll is surprisingly low.

The reason is that after 14 years of civil war and factional bloodletting, the Lebanese have developed a sixth sense about when trouble is about to explode and head for their underground bunkers and basements for shelter.

For those on either side of Beirut's dividing green line who haven't, the signal to take cover is the theme music from the thriller movie "Shaft" on the radio.

The Isaac Hayes tune always precedes flashes on where shells are falling. Beirutis also know that when their side starts firing, a retaliatory barrage is inevitable.

When the big Dora fuel depot on the western side was hit a few days ago, sending up a huge fireball and destroying virtually all Lebanon's fuel supplies, the radio advised everyone living near the blazing facility to get away in case other fuel tanks blew.

A distraught mother of three told how she rushed out of her apartment with her family amid the crump of exploding shells nearby. It was only when she reached her brother's house in the neighbouring Hazmieh district that she realised she'd left her son with a neighbour.

Three hours later, the 10-year-old boy showed up. He had walked five kilometres under heavy shelling without a scratch.

"Those were the worst hours of my life," said the young woman, who did not want to be identified "because my husband works abroad and I don't want him to hear about this."

But despite their well-honed survival instincts and the warnings, people are sometimes caught off-guard.

A young man named Jamal was killed by shrapnel as he drove his family from his home in the south Beirut district of Ouzai to west Beirut to be with his elderly mother during a lull a few days ago, his neighbours said.

A 25-year-old student, just back from West Germany where he majored in computer science, was killed when he visited a militia base manned by fighters of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP).

"We'd asked him to teach us how to use communications equipment," a PSP fighter said. "A shell landed close to where we were standing and he was killed."

Bunkers — second homes

The bunkers have become second homes for many families over the years, and life underground often is austere and cramped. Power plants have been hit or shut down because fuel has run out.

Fires rage out of control — the water pumping system doesn't work because there's no power. Several families are often crammed into reinforced basements for days on end, eating from stockpiles of canned food and water, sleeping as best they can by the light of kerosene lamps or candles.

One woman gave birth to a son by candlelight, aided by her cardiologist brother, in her family's Spartan shelter in the Fanar district of east Beirut several days ago during a bombardment.

She did not want to run the gauntlet of shells and rockets to get to a hospital about a 800 metres away. At least two hospitals have been set on fire. Others have taken hits.

But for the well-off, bunker life can be almost enjoyable.

Fourteen families living in the Adonis district of east Beirut have built a luxury two-storey bunker under their apartment block. Furniture store owner Hanna Breidi has fitted it with wall-to-wall carpets, 10 double beds, armchairs, refrigerators and a mini-gambling salon.

They also have two colour televisions with video recorders, and radio telephones, which operate independently of their generator. There are also video games for the children.

The refrigerator is stocked with smoked salmon, hams, imported cheeses, steak and wine.

The families' maids, mostly Sri Lankans and Filipinos, live on the first floor below ground level, while the Lebanese live it up on the spacious lower level.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-14

PROGRAMME ONE

14:30 Kuran
14:35 Children programmes
14:45 Cooking programme
14:50 Arabic series
15:00 Health programme
15:10 Religious period
15:20 Ramadan contest
15:35 Arabic series
15:40 Programme review
15:50 News in Arabic
16:00 Arabic series
16:10 Programme review
16:20 Religious series
16:30 Riddle
16:40 News in Arabic
16:50 Arabic series
16:55 Arabic film

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Coalises
18:30 Des Chiffres et de Lettres
19:00 News in French
19:15 Le 14 d'Heure du Prochain
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Natural Phenomena
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Just the Ten of us
21:00 Alfred Hitchcock presents
21:30 Saturday Variety Show
22:00 News in English
22:30 Lonesome Drive

PRAYER TIMES

03:32 Fair

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetieh, Tel. 810741

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637430

De la Salle Church Tel. 61757

Terrassanta Church Tel. 62290

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625903. Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 715261

Slt. Ephraim Church Tel. 717571

Armenian International Church Tel. 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

Rainbow Congregation Tel. 823615

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815017, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

It will be relatively hot and dry and winds will be southeasterly, light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.

Amman 15 / 19

Aqaba 20 / 36

Dead Sea 12 / 31

Jordan Valley 19 / 37

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 14 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Rami Mizzi 894788

Dr. Salah Al 'Isud 649028

Dr. Othman Hawamdeh 678485

Dr. Issam Hawamdeh 624830

Firas pharmacy 661912

Feklaw pharmacy 778336

Al Asena pharmacy 637055

Natroukh pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Radwan Sa'ad (—)

Al Shara'a pharmacy (985236)

ZARQA:

Dr. Abdul Karim Khassafiyeh (—)

Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Rescue 199

Fire Brigade 192, 621111, 637777

Blood Bank 62209495

Highway Police 775121

Traffic Police 843402

Public Security Department 6569091

Hotel Complaints 656000 / 665111

Complaints 628800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 12

Overseas Calls 17

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642816

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 642412

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Mahbas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdull 665127/77

Al-Ahli, Abdull 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3

Prince Faisal opens Iraqi cultural festival

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Al Hussein Thursday opened an Iraqi cultural festival at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman. The festival, organised by the Iraqi Embassy here to mark the birthday of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The festival comprises an art exhibition with paintings depicting scenes of the Iraqi people's heroic stand in the face of the Iranian aggression and paintings on other topics and natural scenery as well as other forms of art work in ceramics. Some of the paintings represent the objectives of the Arab Cooperation Council which groups Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen.

Prince Faisal watched a documentary film depicting an Iraqi wedding which took place during the eight year Iraq-Iran war. The opening ceremony was



Prince Faisal

attended by a number of ministers, and members of the diplomatic missions in Jordan and an audience of invited guests. According to the organisers, the festival will last seven days.

Jordan, Tunisia reach taxation agreement

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan and Tunisia have exchanged documents in which they endorse a bilateral agreement on avoiding double taxation and preventing any tax evasion on the part of citizens and organisations from either country.

Jordan's Ambassador to Tunisia Talal Al Hassan said that the agreement opens a new chapter in bilateral cooperation. The ambassador described Jordanian-Tunisian ties as excellent at all levels especially in economic fields. The new agreement, he said, is bound to reduce obstacles in the path of capital flow.

Hassan Karmi says goodbye Sunday

LONDON (J.T.) — Anguished letters from listeners in the Arab World and Germany have followed the news that Hassan Karmi, the creator of the BBC Arabic Service programme "Saying on a Saying" (Qawl ala Qawl), is to retire after 30 years of broadcasting, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) said.

Karmi has such a unique knowledge and understanding of Arabic literature that the BBC feels it cannot continue the programme without him. The late President Nasser enjoyed it so much that he wanted it recreated in Egypt. Attempts were made by several Arab radio stations to persuade Karmi to leave the BBC and present the programme for them, but he declined.

"The idea behind 'Saying on a Saying' was to join hands with the listener through a journey into Arabic literature, its poetry and prose, ancient and modern," says Karmi.

"I am sorry to be saying goodbye to this programme that I conceived and reared for 30 years. I feel like a mother saying goodbye to her only child for ever."

Hassan Karmi, who is now over 80, has also compiled several English-Arabic and Arabic-Arabic dictionaries. In his youth he was more scientifically inclined but he became interested in Arabic language and literature and achieved his extensive knowledge entirely through personal effort and great discipline, reading widely every day. He is now, says his daughter Siham, who also works for the BBC Arabic Service, "an acknowledged connoisseur who is able to recognise and trace the source of most words or phrases."

The letters — including one from an Arabic-speaking German who has benefited a great deal from the programmes — ask him to come back, or failing that, for the series to be repeated. Extracts from the programmes have in fact been published in past issues of the BBC Arabic Service magazine "Huna London" and is 15 volumes, and are widely used as reference books in schools, universities and libraries.

Hassan Karmi makes his farewell appearance on the BBC Arabic Service in "Qasas" on Sunday, 23 April, at 1830-1900 GMT.

Abu Ghazaleh elected

BRUSSELS (J.T.) — The International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC) held its board meeting last week in Brussels during which President of the Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA) Talal Abu Ghazaleh was elected as chairman of the IASC's committee for newly industrialised and developing countries affairs. The committee consists of France, Italy, Nigeria, Malaysia in addition to representatives of the U.N., World Bank and the international finance corporation.



Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Hmoud Thursday chairs a meeting of the country's mayors at the ministry. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan

the Regent addressed the mayors and called for constructive dialogue (Petra photo).

Mayors express loyalty to the Hashemites, deplore hooligans

Prince Hassan calls for enlarged conference, constructive dialogue

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Regent has called for an enlarged economic conference in Jordan to be attended by members of regional development councils and economic organisations to discuss endeavours to be made to enhance and stabilise the national economy.

The meeting is needed to intensify all sectors' efforts in handling all outstanding issues concerning the economic stability of the country, Prince Hassan said at a meeting with mayors gathered from various parts of the Kingdom.

The Regent said he was confident that mayors, development councils and all institutions are keen on safeguarding the national interest and on transcending the regrettable incidents in the southern regions of the country. The

past events, he said, can be smoothed over and settled with a spirit of national responsibility, openness and understanding, the Prince said.

The Regent emphasised the need for constructive dialogue and the involvement of all sectors in handling issues of common interest.

The mayors expressed their regret over the incidents in the south and stressed their loyalty to the Hashemite leadership and their keenness to safeguard national unity.

Later, the mayors gathered at a meeting at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs to discuss current issues in Jordan comprehensively and objectively.

The mayors expressed their allegiance to His Majesty King Hussein and manifested concern over the protection of the security

of the homeland and its sacred soil, and called for the preservation of the gains and achievements acquired through the long march.

The mayors agreed that the disorderly events which occurred in some parts of Jordan fall within the conspiracies aimed against the security and stability of Jordan, and which will eventually serve the enemies of our Arab Nation who intend to distract world attention from the escalating Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

The mayors denounced the uncivilised method to which some people resorted for expressing their opinion and to present their claims. Such method has given hooligans the chance to acquire personal gains, and biased elements to spread their poisons.

The mayors reaffirmed the inadmissibility of appealing anarchists.

The mayors praised the responsible nationalist attitudes expressed by the greater majority of our one Jordanian family.

They also affirmed that the recent economic measures taken by the government were the only option before it, hence it is to all of us to live up to our responsibility towards this crisis which is facing us and many others in the region.

The mayors praised the way the official organs handled the deplorable developments, as wise, patient and tolerant.

The minister of municipal affairs who attended the meeting briefed the mayors on recent events and called their initiative as highly responsible.

University Hospital — a source of pride

By Suhair Obeidat
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Though still considered a developing country, Jordan, in a very short period of time, took large steps on the road of medical progress, and has come a long way from where it originally started. By introducing advanced scientific technologies to the medical care field, Jordan has become a genuine source of pride both to the country, and its beneficiary citizens.

With the Ministry of Health being responsible for providing primary medical care, secondary and tertiary health care services were assigned to other health institutions.

"With that goal in mind, and in 1973, the Jordan University Hospital (JUH) was established with the capacity of accommodating 100 beds." JUH Director Rizek Rashdan told the Jordan Times in a recent interview.

In 1975, the hospital was assigned a new responsibility, — education. "It is well known that the requirements of a teaching and training hospital differ from those of an ordinary hospital that offers its services to the public in terms of space needed for teaching, educating and training

purposes. From there came the idea of building the out patient clinics, which provided the adequate needed space," Rashdan said.

The out patient clinics were constructed in 1987 by a Jordanian contracting company at a cost of about JD 9 million, including equipments.

The seven-floor, 29,000 square metres building, accommodates all the specialised clinics — the dental clinics (which has 85 dental chairs), the renal dialysis clinic with its 12 machines and the ophthalmological section. It also has a "very well-equipped" operating room and a similar operating room in the urological section. In addition, the building accommodates the blood and eye banks.

Teaching and training hospitals are linked with the medical faculties at Jordanian universities through agreements that aim at realising the teaching and training programmes and at offering the highest level of medical care to the patients.

"The Jordan University Hospital trains doctors, nurses and also technicians," Rashdan said. When it was first founded, the hospital was affiliated to the ministry of health. Later, it



Dr. Rizek Al Rashdan

became affiliated with an independent board of trustees and then to the University of Jordan. On June 1988, running the university hospital became the responsibility of the National Medical Institute (NMI).

"During these shifts of management, the hospital was not affected by serious changes," Rashdan said. "At the same time, it sustained its standard which is expected to go even higher after it has joined the NMI, the body specialised in running hospitals. This, I am sure, will increase the hospital's educational and training contribution as well as the quantity and quality of its services to the patients. The NMI will consequently take serious interest in the training of the staff in an attempt to raise their standard and to improve their performance," he said.

According to Rashdan, the transitory period from the affiliation to Jordan University to the NMI, was a relatively stable one in which they did not face any difficulties in preparing for the transformation. On the contrary, he said, the NMI saved the hospital from the debts that were accumulating, and were overdue.

"The JD 2.5 million covered the price of medicines, prescribed by the hospital to its patients (25 per cent of which was local and the rest imported). The amount was fully paid by the ministry of health, so we are now able to start making profit," Rashdan said.

Yet, according to Rashdan, despite the shortage of funds and the ever increasing number of patients, the hospital was able to maintain its tradition of services and quality of patient care.

In a period of 14 years (from the time the hospital was first founded to the end of 1987), the hospital received a total number of 1,448,000 patients, with a daily average of 882 patients. An overall 243,818 patients were admitted as in-patients 92,000 of which underwent operations.

Today, the hospital increased the number of beds to 509, and is currently staffed by 1700 members.

"The Jordan University Hospital is equipped with state-of-the-art medical devices, some of which are the only ones available in the kingdom, like the ultra sound machine (which is used to measure the various eye dimensions)," Rashdan said.

Regarding future projects, Rashdan said: "We are planning to build an emergency and first aid ward, expand the intensive care unit, build a bone marrow transplant unit and other constructive projects."

Mosaic floor unearthed

AMMAN (Petra) — A joint team from the Department of Antiquities and the Yarmouk University's Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology has completed the recovery of a mosaic floor of an ancient Byzantine building dating back to the eighth century A.D.

An announcement here said that part of the floor was discovered by accident in the course of implementing a road expansion project near the present village of Qum.

The announcement said that indications point to the fact that

the building was destroyed as a result of an earthquake in 747 A.D. which caused a wide-scale destruction in the northern parts of the Jordan Valley.

It said that another building which rose on the ancient site later was constructed by the Umayyad caliphs who succeeded the Byzantines in ruling Greater Syria.

The falling masonry, the announcement noted, has caused damage to the original mosaic floor which was restored in the 14th century A.D.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PRIVATE SCHOOLS: Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Hindawi Saturday will chair a meeting to be attended by the directors of private schools in Greater Amman at the Freres' College, according to Al Dustour daily. Matters related to education and students affairs will be discussed, the paper adds (J.T.).

GRADUATES: Minister of Social Development Fawaz Touqan Thursday presented certificates to 43 graduates who completed a training course in sewing, weaving, typing, and flower arrangement at the Women's Affairs Department in Amman. Touqan praised the women's role in maintaining progress and ability to curb extravagant consumption, and set economy on the right track (Petra).

ONE FAMILY: Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat said that the sons of Jordan are brothers and cousins that is why they should fight rumours, affirm their affiliation to their homeland and leader, and entrench national belonging. During a meeting with the imams and preachers in Amman Thursday, Dr. Khayyat stressed that the imams should enlighten the people, urge them to go ahead with investment plans, encourage them to refrain from extravagant consumption of water and electricity, and fight all bad habits like begging and sleeping in mosques (Petra).

PRESS CONFERENCE: The European Parliamentary delegation currently on a visit to Jordan will hold a press conference Saturday morning at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel to discuss their findings during their visit to the occupied Arab territories. According to the Arabic daily, Al Ra'i, the delegation held talks with a number of Palestinian leaders during its visit to the occupied territories last week (J.T.).

TRAINING: Head of training and teaching department at the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Ghazi Abdul Hadi said that there is a plan to train the JEA employees in administrative, financial, and technical fields as well as computer.

Labour meeting concludes

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-day meeting by the central council of the Arab International Labour Federation AILF concludes in Amman Saturday following detailed discussions on labour issues in the Arab World and those in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories.

The opening session was addressed by the federation's secretary general Imeid Jalloud who referred to the council meeting as part of preparations for next month's general conference to be held in Algiers.

Abdul Halim Khaddam, president of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions and chairman of the council, said that general conditions of Arab labourers, and their well-being, unity among Arab workers in the face of challenges, technological development and its effects on training of manpower and Arab workers role in socio-economic development will be among the



Ministry of Foreign Affairs Palestinian affairs briefs a visiting European parliamentarians delegation department director Ahmad Qatanani Thursday (Petra photo)

Qatanani briefs European parliamentarians

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation representing the European Parliament's society entrusted with promoting Euro-Arab cooperation heard about Israel's repressive measures against the Palestinian citizens of the occupied territories at a meeting in Amman on Thursday.

Director of the Foreign Ministry's Palestinian affairs department Ahmad Qatanani outlined the situation in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip under Israeli rule and referred to Israel's continued repressive measures designed to uproot the Arab population from their homeland.

Qatanani also outlined his department's duties and responsibilities in the course of providing facilities to the Palestinian people and the Jordanian government's continued assistance to Palestinian refugees in Jordan. The government, he noted, continues to provide all forms of assistance to the refugees who are now housed in 11 camps in cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

UNRWA deplores Israel

Meanwhile UNRWA had deplored the increased toll of civilians killed by security forces in the occupied territories over the

past week and expressed disappointment that schools in the West Bank are not to be allowed to re-open for at least another month.

UNRWA's Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli said at his Vienna office Wednesday:

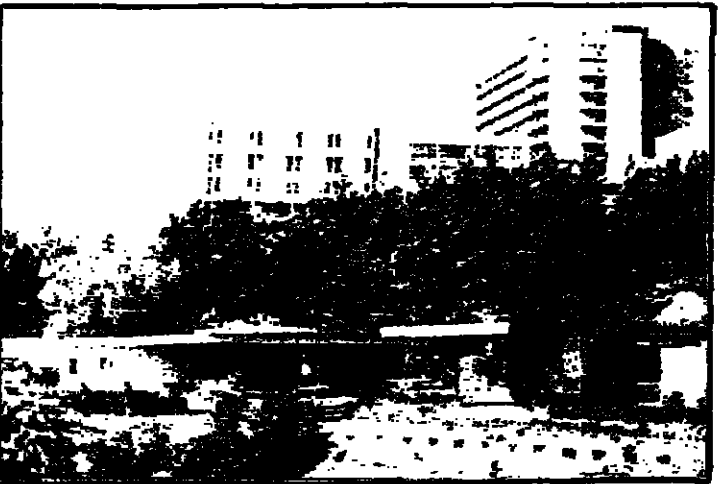
"In the past week, at least 13 Palestinians, including a 13-year-old refugee girl and five boys aged between 10 and 15, have been shot dead by Israeli forces in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This heavy toll, caused by such incidents as the border-police raid on Nahalin village in which many were killed or wounded by gunfire, represents a marked increase over casualties in the preceding weeks. As a United Nations humanitarian agency, we deplore this loss of life and call for a halt to the use of lethal firepower against civilians young and old."

Figures compiled by UNRWA show that 30 Palestinians have been killed and at least 237 wounded by army gunfire since the end of March. From the beginning of the Palestinian uprising through 15 April, 442 Palestinians were killed and nearly 25,000 wounded by the security forces, the figures show.

Meanwhile, the Israeli authorities have extended for another month — through May 19 — the military orders which have kept virtually all schools in the West Bank closed continuously since Jan. 21, 1989. These include 90 UNRWA-operated schools with 36,000 refugee pupils aged 6-15. The only exceptions to the closures are schools lying within Jerusalem municipality, which include eight UNRWA schools for refugees.

"West Bank schools have been open only sporadically since February 1988, and have not been allowed to make up time lost in the last school year," Giacomelli said. "If they cannot re-open before the end of next month and are not allowed to remain open through the summer months, a whole school year will be lost."

UNRWA has repeatedly called for schools to be re-opened to allow Palestinian children to exercise their basic right to education. This may also improve the climate in the area. Interim arrangements to enable children in the first three years of school to continue some basic education at home have been barred by the Israeli authorities.



University Hospital as seen from its main entrance (File photo)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by French artist Jean-Francois Noble at Haya Arts Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at the Royal Cultural Centre.

RAMADAN SOUQ

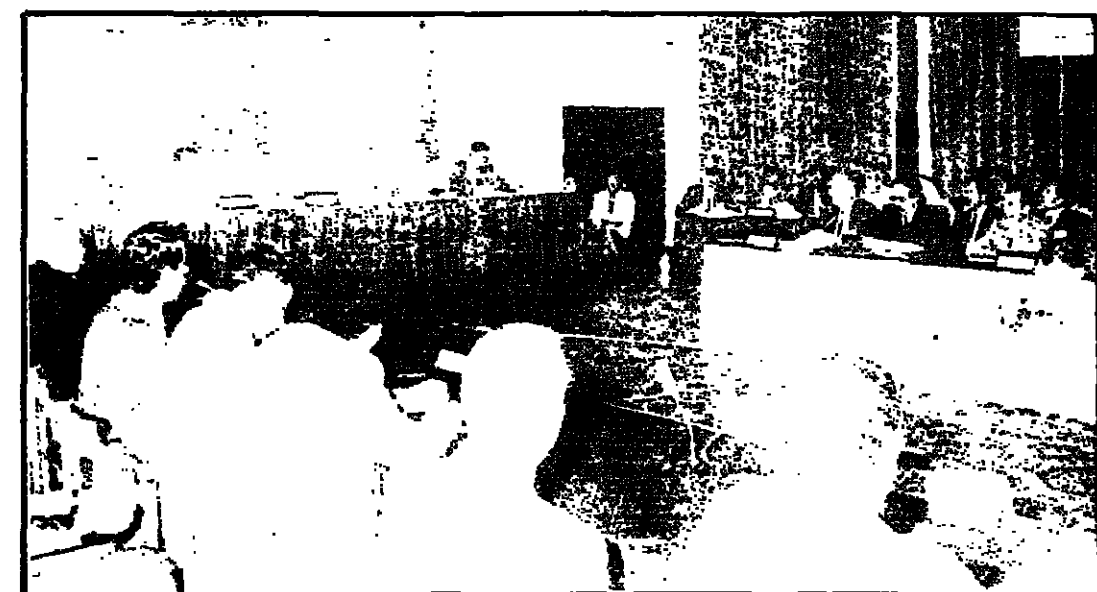
- ★ Ramadan open-air market, which includes foodstuffs, clothes, home appliances and children's toys at Mahatta, eastern Amman.
- ★ International Ramadan Souq, in which 14 Arab and Islamic countries are taking part, at the International Auto Centre, Queen Alia International Airport Highway.

FILMS

- ★ An Iraqi film entitled "A Place in Tomorrow" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ A German video for children entitled "Rosi und die grosse Stadt" at the Goethe Institute — 4:00 p.m.

THEATRE

- ★ An Arabic play entitled "The Country's Love... Continues," shown as part of the cultural festival of the Jordanian community colleges, at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.



Arab labour leaders meet in Amman Thursday (Petra photo).

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Fruitful mission

HIS Majesty King Hussein's talks with U.S. President George Bush and senior American officials in Washington deserve to be characterised as most positive and fruitful. In more than one context such talks can be described as opening a fresh page in Jordanian-American relations. It is not only the warmth of the words that were used by King Hussein and President Bush to greet one another that clearly struck a new note in their long standing friendly personal relations that go back several years; rather it is also the cooperative and understanding spirit that dominated their substantive exchange of views on a wide range of issues that touch on their countries' bilateral relations as well as on regional and international issues on top of which are the Arab-Israeli conflict in general and the Palestine question in particular. On the level of Jordanian-American relations it is gratifying to note that the U.S. president has clearly and unequivocally committed his nation to safeguard Jordanian economy and security. In view of the economic and fiscal hardships that Jordan has had to endure lately, the offer to help Jordan in its economic needs could not have come at a more opportune time. Organically linked with Jordan's economic requirements are its security needs. In fact one can hardly separate the two objectives from one another. The recent unfortunate disturbances that occurred in some cities and towns in southern Jordan are basically due to the national obligation to rescue the country from its pressing financial and economic conditions, and this underscores how interlinked are economic issues with domestic security and stability. To show sensitivity to Jordan's current woes is indeed an exemplary act of statesmanship and comradeship on the part of President George Bush and his administration.

On the level of regional conflicts, the two leaders have also struck a very positive note whether it concerns the Arab-Israeli conflict or the Lebanon's alarming situation. If there is still room for more efforts to affect a complete meeting of the minds between them on these issues, what has been achieved already is truly remarkable and commendable. For His Majesty King Hussein to conclude that he sensed during his talks with President Bush that the president is sincere in his efforts to bring the Arab-Israeli conflicts to peaceful and rapid conclusion is quite remarkable. And President Bush's willingness to draw heavily on the decades-long experience of King Hussein in the Middle Eastern conflicts in treading the American path in the Middle East is also a source of joy and appreciation to all of us in Jordan and the Middle East.

Few weeks ago this paper expressed the view that all the parties to the Middle East conflicts must await the results of the visit of King Hussein to Washington to gauge accurately the American administration's posture on events and issues in the Middle East. There was once gloom and doom circling over the horizon of the American posture on the Middle East conflicts. King Hussein's talks with President George Bush has done a lot to dissipate the dark clouds that dominated the Middle East scene. More sustained efforts must still be exerted to fulfil the mission. Still what has already been accomplished serves as the firm foundation on which to construct additional positive achievements.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily Friday tackled His Majesty King Hussein's current efforts in the United States to stimulate the peace process in the Middle East and help convene an international conference to achieve that peace. The paper referred to the King's meetings with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Senate members with whom the paper, said the monarch discussed the Arab-Israeli conflict and other Middle Eastern issues including Lebanon and the end to the sufferings of the people in this part of the world. Needless to say that such approach and such talks are of paramount importance to the Arab area and the whole world since the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict would have its beneficial results on the whole region, the paper noted. It said that the Jordanian people take pride in the King's efforts and his achievements that are bound to serve the Arab Nation at large and Jordan in particular. The King, the paper said, has been able to shoulder a national responsibility and succeeded in presenting the Arab Nation's views to the U.S. administration which is now more open towards the achievement of a lasting peace in our region.

Al Dustour daily tackled a speech by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, at a meeting with Jordanian mayors who re-emphasised their allegiance to the Hashemite throne and keenness to pursue all possible efforts to protect the country's security and national interests. The paper said that the Prince's call for a general conference by development councils to discuss the situation provides evidence of his deep concern over the situation following the regrettable incidents in the south and the Prince's concern for the well-being of the Jordanian people. What the Prince is seeking is an intensification of efforts at all levels and a mobilisation of the country's resources and potentials for the sake of maintaining the momentum for development and for progress, the paper noted. It said that the projected conference under the current circumstances will no doubt put things in their right perspective and re-organise all sectors and mobilise their efforts towards the common goal.

Sawt Al Shaab daily described the King's current talks in the United States as part of the Jordanian endeavours to achieve peace. The paper noted that the King's talks with the U.S. administration presented a precious chance for any moves towards the establishment of real and lasting peace. The talks centered on the Middle East in general and the Palestine problem in particular — questions to which the King had devoted his time and effort over the past years so that the area can live in peace, the paper said. Jordan looks with more confidence and more optimism towards the future and the Jordanian people are more confident of the leader's ability to lead the country towards further stability and progress.

Arab Americans assert themselves in U.S. arena

By Jim Shevris

ARLINGTON, Virginia — Americans of Arab descent can be proud of their many contributions to their adopted country, the founder of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) told delegates to the group's sixth national convention.

"People of our blood have always been active in sports, civic affairs, medicine and politics. But it's only been recently we've come to be recognised," said James Abourezk, who chairs the 23,000-member organisation.

"We're a community that is widespread, very talented, but we were unorganised and therefore had no real political clout," he said in a panel discussion during ADC's April 13-16 convention in this suburb of Washington, D.C. Abourezk attributed the increased recognition of Arab American contributions in part to the group's growing political awareness and activities.

When he was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1972, Abourezk

was the first Arab American to enter the upper chamber of Congress. He founded ADC nine years ago after leaving government.

Abourezk cited several Arab Americans who have added luster to American life in recent years. They included entertainers (Paul Anka, Jamie Farr, Danny Thomas, Omar Sharif), sports personalities (Dong Flutie, Joe Robbie, Ronnie Seikaly), consumer advocates (Ralph Nader, Candy Lightner) and political figures (Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, Congressman Nick Joe Rahall).

Congresswoman Mary Rose Oakar of Ohio, herself an Arab American, said, "We are proud that President Bush appointed 'somebody of the caliber of (former New Hampshire) Governor John Sununu (also Arab-American) as White House chief of staff."

Arabs make good Americans, she said. "We believe in this country. We sacrifice for this country."

"We are from the cradle of civilisation and science, the arts, numerology and the alphabet, the great religions, belief in God. These are our contributions."

Still, a number of participants in the annual ADC convention cited the problems of growing up as an Arab American. Many of them said they have felt anti-Arab prejudice personally or seen their children exposed to it. But they found a measure of comfort at a panel discussion that indicated such discrimination has lessened recently.

Noha Ismail, who came to the United States 19 years ago with her husband and two small children, said the black civil rights movement has been largely responsible for making Americans more tolerant of ethnic diversity.

"Things have changed. Ethnic differences today are seen as desirable," said Ismail, a member of ADC's executive committee, who has been active in women's causes.

Born in Hebron, Palestine, and educated in Alexandria, Egypt,

Ismail said she and her husband represented the "new wave" of Arab immigrants — young, educated, urban, politically conscious. This group contrasts sharply with earlier, mostly uneducated immigrants who came to the United States mostly to escape oppressive rule, she said.

"There was a general intolerance of ethnic groups then," she said. "Arab Americans were ashamed to talk Arabic in public."

Now, however, Arab Americans feel "no compelling desire to melt in the melting pot" of America, she said.

"Quite the contrary: we coined the term Arab American to distinguish us from others... We were determined to raise our children no differently than we ourselves were raised — as Muslim Arabs or as Christian Arabs, Arabs nonetheless. We had no intention of severing our ties with the past."

Essa Abed, director of a family and children's service centre in Brooklyn, New York, agreed growing up Arab American can

be a struggle but said Arab Americans can do something about that.

However, rather than withdrawing into enclaves and wrapping themselves in "old-country" tribal ways, Abed urged Arab Americans to "relate less as members of a clan and more as individuals."

"I don't believe it has served us well to insist on living as if we were in remote Beirut or Cairo because we're not."

"A few years ago, many of us were actually ashamed to call ourselves Arab Americans. Today, we see a tremendous pride among Arab Americans. We don't say we're Palestinian Americans, we don't say we're Lebanese Americans anymore. We say we're Arab Americans."

ADC, started nine years ago with only 50 members, now counts 23,000 members in 66 chapters all over the country.

In a discussion of Arab-American issues in the news, a group of U.S.-based reporters agreed the Palestinian uprising in the occu-

pied territories has contributed to an "awakening" in the American press to Arab American causes.

"This was not the case 17 months ago" when the uprising began, said Ricardo Chavira, Time magazine's State Department correspondent.

Tom Hendrick, a former Cable News Network correspondent in Lebanon, now with Fox Television in Washington, said the intifada and the war in Lebanon have caused the American media to "look more forcefully behind the stereotype of Arabs."

Glenn Frankel, Washington Post bureau chief in Jerusalem and a recent Pulitzer Prize winner for his coverage of the uprising, credited the intifada with changing U.S. opinion on the Middle East.

He said the intifada has refocused media attention from terrorism and the activities of the Palestine Liberation Organisation to Israeli occupation of the territories and alleged human rights violations — U.S. Information Agency.

Italy condemned to instability unless rules change

By Barry Moody
Reuters

ROME — Can Italy ever overcome its legendary instability? Not unless you change the rules says Prime Minister Ciriaco de Mita and few analysts would disagree.

De Mita became prime minister a year ago with brave hopes of a full four-year term that would enable him to bring the economy under control and make Italy more stable.

Those hopes are already smashed.

De Mita's power was sapped in February when he was toppled as leader of the dominant Christian Democrats (DC) in an internal party plot.

Last week he came close to losing Italy's 48th postwar government as well when a dispute between the DC and the Socialists, second largest party in the five-member coalition, almost provoked a political crisis.

Almost all politicians believe the crisis has merely been postponed and de Mita will last no longer than elections to the European Parliament in June.

Saying the fate of the government was out of his hands, de Mita remarked bitterly: "In Italy we have a parliamentary government, perhaps unique in the world, which has no stability..."

In a speech last weekend, he added: "Instead of depending on the changing game of political forces, in other industrialised countries the life of the government is entrusted to institutional mechanisms which guarantee the dominance of the will of the electorate for all the time established by the constitution."

Treasury Minister Giuliano Amato has also complained that governments in Italy, whose average life expectancy is 10 months, never have time to carry out any substantial policy and cannot face up to unpopular issues.

With the European single market in 1992 on the horizon and a damaging budget deficit expected to reach at least 122 trillion lire (\$88 billion) this year, de Mita says Italy just cannot afford to put off the hard choices any longer.

Commenting on the fact that governments in the past have merely responded to powerful pressure groups he declared: "Unfortunately I find myself leading a government which for the first time in 40 years is condemned to asking for something instead of giving it away." But de Mita's loss of his party's leadership and growing restlessness by Socialist leader Bettino Craxi — worried by a new assertiveness among the Communists to his left — seem to have swept away de Mita's chances of pushing through ambitious political reforms.

The existing political system has structural weaknesses that make stability in an illusory dream.

The proportional representation system has encouraged the creation of myriad groups that fragment the vote. The DC, dominant since World War II, has never won an absolute majority and now holds 34 per cent support.

This has forced the creation of squabbling coalition governments, representing a wide spectrum of vested interests.

Policy-making is paralysed by the need for consensus and only bland lowest-common-denominator policies normally stand a chance of being implemented.

Tiny parties, like the Liberals — members of the present coalition despite only two per cent of the vote — can bring down a government, wielding power totally disproportionate to their strength.

In addition, Italy's Communists have been excluded from power for 40 years despite consistently being the second biggest party.

The neo-fascist MSI is also ostracised so that parties representing a third of the electorate have no place in the power game.

This further element of instability leaves the other parties fighting constantly over the middle ground and in 40 years there has been practically no genuine change.

The lack of an alternative makes politicians largely unaccountable. There is little risk of being rejected and therefore little stimulus to rule efficiently.

Italy's voters cannot directly elect any of their rulers from state president down to city mayor. At elections they cannot determine the composition of the next government or choose the prime minister — both are decided in post-electoral haggling.

De Mita believes that his party and the Communists should be the two poles of Italian politics, alternating in government with a properly defined opposition.

But that scheme has foundered against Craxi's opposition. The Socialist leader has exploited the isolation of the Communists to boost the power of his party and he wants to be recognised as leader of the left with the long term aim of toppling the DC.

But the left is still not big enough to command 50 per cent of the vote and the Communists reject Craxi's leadership.

So the Socialist leader is forced into a split personality, cooperating with the Christian Democrats while plotting their downfall — yet another factor of instability.

By Christopher Hanson
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Two months after Soviet troops withdrew from Afghanistan under pressure from U.S.-backed guerrillas, critics say America no longer has a coherent and effective policy for promoting the rebel cause.

The resistance is beset with difficulties, both military and political, and the Soviet-backed government in Kabul is putting up a more effective fight for survival than was expected.

Congressional critics and private analysts say Washington is doing little more than standing idly by.

"It seems to me our policy is watching and waiting and hoping for the best. Surely we can exert more influence than we are," said Gordon Humphrey, a Republican senator who is one of the most ardent resistance-supporters in the American Congress, at a recent Senate hearing.

Others say Washington is providing the wrong weapons and failing to press the rebels to form a representative government — partly because Afghanistan is no longer a priority.

"What's the aim?" asked Robert Neumann, former U.S. envoy to Kabul. "It was to get the Russians out. That accomplished,

'U.S. policy towards Afghan rebels lacks coherence'

what government Afghanistan has is a lesser objective."

The Kabul government, which Washington says is illegitimate, has clung to power longer than many had predicted it could without Soviet soldiers to prop it up. The last Soviet troops left on Feb. 15.

Rebel forces ringing the strategic city of Jalalabad have found it difficult to adjust from guerrilla fighting to conventional siege tactics. Hampered by poor coordination between rival factions, plagued by bombings and minefields, they have been bogged down for some six weeks.

Some Western diplomats say the rebels cannot win a military victory and a negotiated settlement may now have to be sought. "The State Department rejects that view, believing the fall of the

Kabul government is inevitable. But independent Afghanistan-watchers feel the administration of President George Bush is not doing enough to help the rebels win.

Afghanistan specialist Marin Strmecki of the private Centre for Strategic and International Studies, who has just returned from a month with the rebels besieging Jalalabad, says the United States is still providing the rebels with guerrilla war weapons when they need conventional armaments.

"The administration has failed to make a transition in the kinds of weapons needed... heavier artillery, better longer-range anti-tank weapons, more Stingers (shoulder-fired anti-aircraft weapons)... and a higher altitude, longer-range anti-aircraft weapon," he said in an interview.

The anti-aircraft weapons are needed because resistance units around Jalalabad are being pounded by elusive and deadly MiG-27 warplanes, he said.

A Soviet official, speaking to reporters in Kabul last week, said: "Hardware is at (the Kabul government's) disposal in any numbers they want." He said Kabul would get a newly perfected "concussion bomb."

A State Department Afghanistan watcher said he knew of no plans for increasing the number of sophistication of U.S. weapons. He insisted Washington was giving the rebels what was needed.

Strmecki also criticised the Bush administration for failing to press the seven Afghan resistance groups, which have formed an interim government, to increase their political legitimacy.

He said Washington should be more energetic in pressing for Afghan "self-determination," urging the resistance to promote some form of elections or an arrangement where tribal elders would represent their regions in a national assembly.

Strmecki said that if the resistance failed to build a broad-based government, the country would break into fragments under rival chieftains. Moscow could then exert leverage over some warlords.

Yugoslavia's next president

By Vjekoslav Radovic
Reuters

BELGRADE — Janez Drnovsek, Yugoslavia's next president, won the first direct election by secret ballot since the Communists came to power in 1945 at the end of World War II.

Voters in his maverick home region of Slovenia, in northwest Yugoslavia, chose Drnovsek on April 2 in the pioneering poll as their representative to the collective state presidency instead of the establishment candidate Marko Bulc, 63.

At 38, he will be Yugoslavia's youngest-ever president when he takes office on May 15 as head of the state presidency for a one-year term after the eight-member body is reconstituted with new representatives from each republic and province.

The president's job rotates

annually among the regions, and it is Slovenia's turn in May.

Drnovsek has a doctorate in economics and is an ardent advocate of a market economy.

He is keen to set a precedent in the highest constitutional body by uniting the feuding ethnic groups within the Yugoslav federation of six republics and to provinces.

"I am determined to insist on a search for common language among all the federal units, in order to overcome economic and political problems," Drnovsek said in an interview with the federal newspaper Borba.

Yugoslavia is saddled with 400 per cent inflation and a \$22 billion debt. The country is plagued by political struggles within the ruling Communist Party as well as ethnic conflicts highlighted by recent ethnic Albanian riots in Kosovo province.

Drnovsek, a member of parliament, is regarded by Western

diplomats as a shrewd economist, expert on debt and monetary problems.

He says Yugoslavia must establish new financial mechanisms in order to become part of the international financial market, a song likely to please the ears of Western creditors.

"That would reduce the present division of Yugoslavia into national (regional) economies," he said.

A former banker and a leading Yugoslav debt expert, he says he believes that current bickering among Yugoslavia's ethnic groups can be overcome by a reversal of its economic fortunes.

Drnovsek said Prime Minister Ante Markovic, appointed in March, should take a fresh initiative to ease the debt burden.

He told Tanjug in an interview: "Our indebtedness could be reduced to a normal level in the next five years," a period equal to

the term of the collective state presidency. Part of the debt should be converted into foreign investments, he said.

"The new government should initiate such action and with the support of the state presidency it could be achieved."

Focusing his election campaign on the "convertible dinar," Drnovsek said the Yugoslav national currency, which has lost 84 per cent of its value against the dollar over the past year, should become convertible within the next five years.

"The dinar has not been used as a means of foreign payments since 1977 and its convertibility is one of the conditions for a more active role in the world market," former Yugoslav national bank governor Branko Colanovic explained.

Drnovsek will be chairman of the Nonaligned Movement in September.

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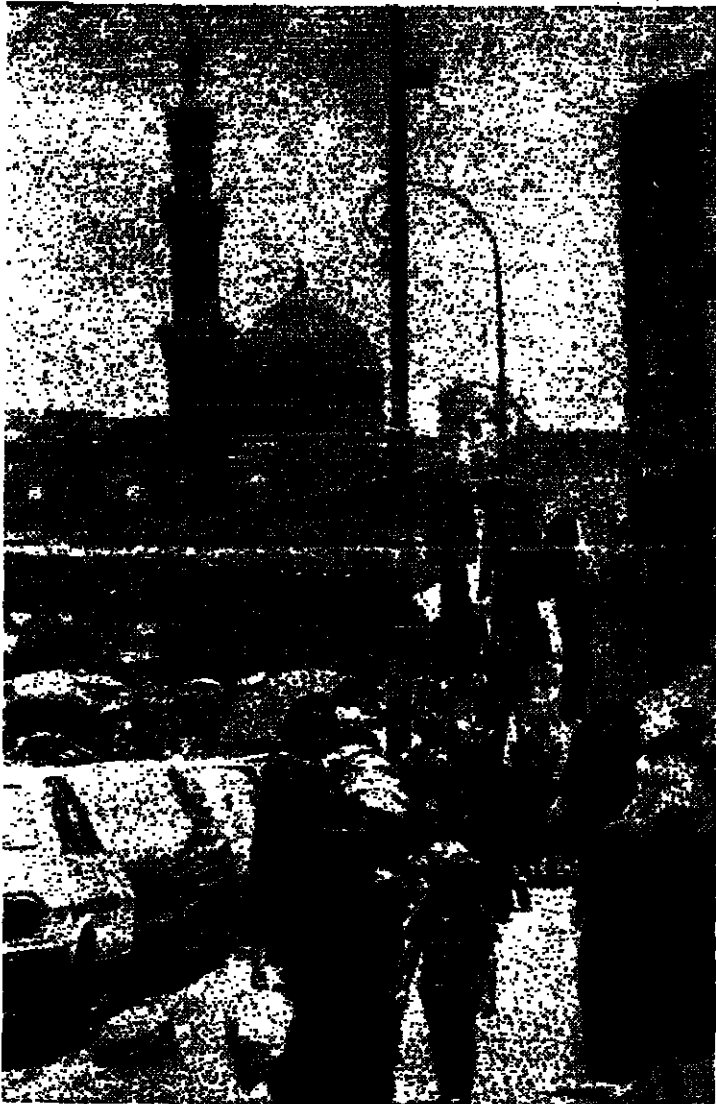
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Egypt's population continues to grow by a staggering one million people every eight months.



Children in downtown Cairo

Family planning gaining ground in populous Egypt

By George D. Moffett III

CAIRO — Until three years ago Azyza was one of the majority of Egyptian women who, according to a recent poll, wanted to stop having children.

But just how to use the birth-control devices passed out at a local government clinic was a mystery. Family and friends warned her of grave side effects if she tried. Meanwhile the children — five, born into the squalor of her teeming Cairo neighbourhood — kept coming.

At a small non-government clinic near her home, Azyza finally found what she needed: a sympathetic doctor who took the time to provide advice that cut through the layers of fear and ignorance about family planning that are prevalent in Egypt.

Three years later, Azyza's children still number five. Experts agree that such individual counselling, now being duplicated at a number of government clinics funded with United States aid, may be one of the most effective ways to expand contraceptive use and bring birth rates down.

That government officials also seem to be getting the point is the latest sign that Egypt is trying to come to terms with runaway population growth that has imposed a heavy burden of poverty, unemployment, and political discontent.

President Hosni Mubarak has become an energetic cheerleader for family planning. Prime-time government produced TV spots and soap operas extol the practice of birth control. Even the country's ranking Islamic cleric last year affirmed that family planning is not a violation of Quranic teachings.

Population experts caution that it will take far more than good intentions for Egypt to reach its ambitious goal of reducing population growth rate from 2.7 to 2.1 per cent by the turn of the century. Still, they say, such changing attitudes represent a small step in the right direction.

"There are a lot of positive signs at the individual level: people are now finally convinced that there is a population problem," says Hussein Abdel Aziz Sayed, a professor of statistics and expert

on population at Cairo University. "Whether this is enough or not, this is a difficult question."

"There's a healthy trend right now, but it will take years before the results will be visible," adds Dr. Mawahab El Mouelhy, whose clinic helped teach Azyza the essentials of family planning.

Population experts are buoyed by just-released government findings that the number of women using birth control devices last year rose to 38 per cent, a 4 percentage-point increase over 1984. Meanwhile, the average size of Egyptian families has continued a steady drop from seven children 20 years ago to about 4.5 today.

But optimism is tempered by the fact that the reduction in births is not keeping pace with the decline in mortality rates. The result: Egypt's population continues to grow by a staggering 1 million people every eight months.

53 million people

Egypt now has 53 million people, most of them squeezed into the 4 per cent of non-desert land

irrigated by the Nile river — an area of 15,466 square miles, twice the size of New Hampshire. At current rates Egypt will bulge with 75 million people by the year 2000 and pass the 100-million mark before 2010.

The population crunch has imposed a heavy toll on traffic (hopelessly snarled), air quality (up to four times worse than levels deemed safe in the US), and housing (in chronically short supply).

Even with the world's largest primary-school construction programme, now averaging two per day, Egypt is unable to keep pace with the relentless demands of its growing population, 40 per cent of which is under the age of 15.

Beyond sheer physical hardship are the political consequences of overpopulation. Experts agree that the growing appeal of Muslim fundamentalism is closely linked to the social and economic distress produced by overcrowding.

"It's hard to overestimate how serious the problem is," says a U.S. population expert. "It's a constraint on virtually every aspect of Egypt's social and economic development."

The gravity of the problem is one reason for a slow evolution in government policy. Egypt's first

president, Gamal Abdel Nasser, insisted that problems of population growth could be solved by development. And today, Egyptian leaders recognise that limiting family size is essential.

But such progressive attitudes have been offset by the dead weight of facts on the ground.

Despite the government's rhetorical commitment to family planning, population issues have usually taken a back seat to more pressing short-term concerns.

The 15-to-20 years required to see the results of policy changes are beyond the horizon of any politician, notes one Egyptian expert. The failure of top Egyptian officials to give a consistently high priority to family planning is one reason a government population commission set up four years ago is widely judged ineffectual.

Despite more liberal attitudes toward family planning at the top of the Muslim hierarchy, moreover, many influential local imams, or preachers, still teach that curbing family size contravenes the will of God.

More basic is the perceived threat to the sanctity of the family aroused by efforts, largely funded by outsiders like the U.S. and U.N., to limit family size.

(1989, The Christian Science Monitor).



Adolf Hitler turns 100

Adolf Hitler was born on April 20, 1889, in a little Austrian town near the German border. In 1945 he committed suicide in his bunker in Berlin. Here are some photos taken in 1935 of the man who changed the history of Europe (Sygma photos).



Alaska oil spill gives environmentalists hope

By Robert Kearns
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Environmental groups looked at the bright side of the ecological disaster caused by the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska — it may speed the end of Arctic oil development.

"It's terribly unfortunate for the environment, but it does

point up the problem," said Sharon Newsome, legislative affairs director for the National Wildlife Federation. "It may bring people to their senses."

Alaska Governor Steve Cowper declared a state of emergency in the Port of Valdez and Prince William Sound as a first step toward asking Washington for federal disaster aid after the Exxon Valdez went aground.

Some 260,000 barrels of crude oil have spilled into the lucrative fishing grounds of the Sound, 25 nautical miles south of Valdez, the southern terminal of the Alaska pipeline.

While it may be a disaster for Alaska, the oil spill provides more ammunition for those fighting to keep oil companies out of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), America's largest remaining wilderness area.

It is adjacent to Alaska's Prudhoe Bay, the site of the most productive U.S. oilfield.

Oil companies are campaigning to persuade Congress that ANWR, with a potential of up to 10 billion barrels of oil, could save the United States from growing dependence on foreign suppliers who provided 7.2 million barrels a day in 1988.

The Senate Energy Committee approved a bill March 16 that would allow "environmentally sound" oil development and similar legislation is pending in the house of representatives where the opposition to opening ANWR is strongest.

Tim Mahoney, chairman of the Alaska coalition of 50 environmental groups, said oil companies "have despoiled the most productive and most bounteous of the Alaskan waters now they want to open the most pristine wilderness area in Alaska."

Lisa Speer, a scientist at the natural resources defence council in New York, said the spill, the worst in North America, would influence the debate over ANWR.

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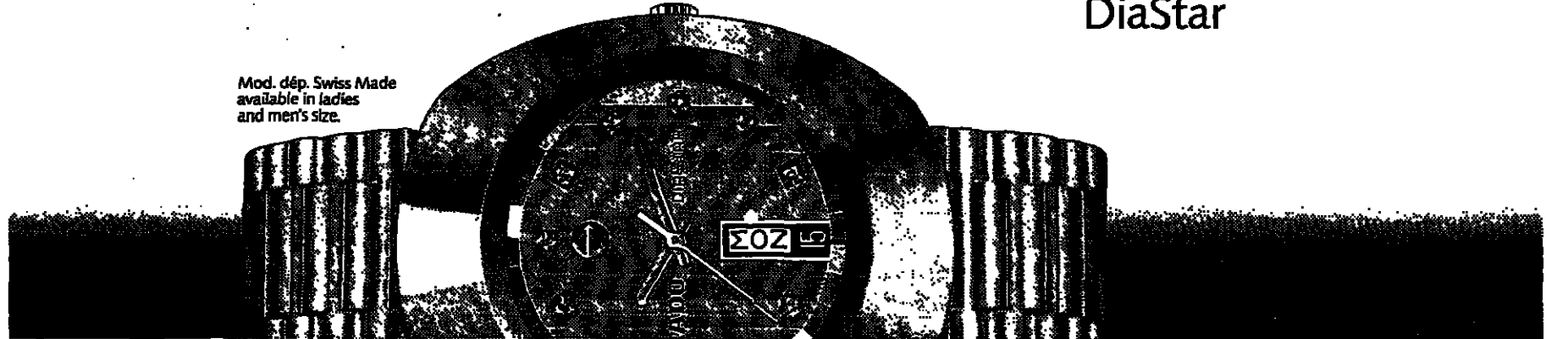
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Egypt widens hunt for oil, turns to gas

CAIRO (R) — Egypt, burdened by a huge foreign debt and a rapidly-growing population, is encouraging oil exploration by offering foreign firms a rare commodity in the tumultuous Middle East — political stability and low risk.

It is also trying to develop its huge gas reserves to ease rising domestic demand for oil and thus free more for export.

Oil exports provide the Arab World's most populous country with its main source of hard currency but Egypt's income was slashed when world oil prices tumbled in mid-1986.

In 1984, Egypt earned \$2.6 billion from oil exports. Two years later, oil income was only \$697 million before picking up in 1987 to \$1.5 billion as prices recovered.

Egypt's population of 54 million is growing fast — a million babies are born here every seven months.

Providing them with food, housing and jobs is the major concern for President Hosni Mubarak's government as it grapples with a foreign debt estimated at \$43 billion.

Officials say domestic energy demand is rising by 12 to 14 per cent a year and the government would like to build more hydroelectric power stations, but is

strapped for cash. But Egypt does boast relative political stability.

Since coming to office in 1981, Mubarak has helped Egypt back into the mainstream of Arab diplomacy and played the role of peace-broker in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Initially ostracised by most Arab states for the peace treaty it signed with Israel 10 years ago, Egypt is making fresh efforts to attract investments by Gulf Arab and Western firms.

"Foreign companies are spending about \$1.4 billion a year on oil exploration in Egypt," Oil Minister Abdul Hadi Kandeel said. "Thanks to political stability, Egypt will award 20 concessions this year for exploration," he

added. A Western oil company executive agreed. "Foreign companies are queuing up to get concessions in Egypt," he said.

"We believe there are good chances to find (more) oil in Egypt — that's why we're here," he added.

Some of the new concessions will go to the Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company, the only Arab company hunting for oil in Egypt.

Others exploring the Western Desert and the Gulf of Suez include British Petroleum, the U.S. oil giant Conoco, Nor Petrol of Norway and Enterprise Oil Exploration, a consortium of British, French and Japanese firms.

Egypt has proven gas reserves of 10 trillion (10,000 billion) cubic feet, an oil ministry official said. In 1988, it produced 5.4 million tonnes of natural gas, an increase of 1.4 million tonnes over 1987.

In 1989, natural gas production is expected to shoot up by 15 per cent, the official said, adding that some factories were switching to gas as an alternative to other energy sources.

In the northern Nile Delta, he said, the Italian oil company signed an agreement in February with the government to double gas production to 1.4 billion cubic feet a year.

He said the government invested \$164 million last year in Egypt's largest gas field, Abu Madi in the Nile Delta.

Sixteen wells are already in production in the area, while 22 others were expected to come on stream by 1991.

But the cash is lacking to construct a pipeline network to shift the gas on a large scale to industrial centres.

"This is beyond Egypt's financing capacity at the moment," said a spokesman for the state-owned Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC).

Study analyses 'tied aid' policy

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. business may lose up to \$800 million annually in export sales because other industrial countries give some of their aid to the Third World on condition that only their products are bought, Congress was told Thursday.

Between 1984 and 1987 Japan made such offers of "tied aid" loans worth \$7.978 billion, according to a report by William Ryan, acting president of the U.S. government's Export-Import Bank.

Offers from France amounted to \$6.448 billion, from Britain \$5.904 billion, from West Germany \$3.847 billion and from Italy \$4.439 billion.

U.S. offers amounted to \$1.114 billion. Spain and The Netherlands also are increasing their tied loans, the report said.

"A \$4 to \$6 billion market of capital goods transactions in certain less developed countries may remain largely inaccessible to U.S. exporters," Ryan wrote to Vice President Dan Quayle, who is president of the Senate, and to Jim Wright, speaker of the House of Representatives.

Ryan said that the offers of the other governments are not illegal or discriminatory against U.S. exporters. In the early 1970s, U.S. policy on foreign aid shifted to an emphasis on human needs and away from big capital projects, he said.

"Our major trading competitors did not follow suit," he said. He made no recommendations, but said some would be coming from the administration of President George Bush by early summer.

Because every dollar of exports promoted in this way costs taxpayers 35 cents and major economic trends seem unaffected, the judgment on using tied aid has to be a political decision, Ryan said. Congress made a \$300 million "war chest" available to meet the competition for the two years that ended last Sept. 30. But the report said that in the final 12 months only \$7.6 million was used.

It found that Japan, in contrast, increased its offers to \$2.39 billion worth of such aid for the period July 1987 to July 1988, up from \$2.19 billion in the previous year.

It added that in response to pressure from the United States and others Japan has announced a programme for untying some loans to South Korea and Malaysia, with Thailand, The Philippines and Papua New Guinea to be added next year. But no such plans have been announced for major recipients of Japanese aid including China and India.



The board of directors of the Iraq-Jordan Land Transport Company discusses the company's financial statements (Petra photo)

Jordanian-Iraqi team meets today to expand joint projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — A follow-up committee, charged by the Joint Jordanian-Iraqi Higher Committee to implement bilateral agreements, holds a meeting in Amman Saturday to review progress in joint projects and to look into means of further boosting cooperation in economic fields.

The committee will review proposals for building a railway line that would link Iraq and Jordan, remove obstacles in the path of coordinating cooperation in agricultural and industrial fields and tackle a number of other economic issues, according to an official statement here.

The Jordanian side to the meeting, the statement noted, will be led by Ministry of Industry and Trade's Secretary-General Mohammad Saqqaf and the Iraqi side will be led by Faeq Abdul Rasool, director of the Iraqi Fund for Development.

According to Iraqi Transport and Communications Minister Mohammad Hamzeh, Iraq has prepared an initial study to lay the railway linking Baghdad with Amman and Aqaba and he hoped that work will be done on other plans for similar projects to connect Iraq with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey.

The minister, who gave the

statement to a Kuwaiti daily, said that the Iraq-Jordan railway study had been prepared over the past year and the Amman meeting Saturday would pave the ground for the implementation of this vital project.

The Iraqi-Jordanian meeting here follows close on the heels of a meeting by the board of directors of the Iraq-Jordan Land Transport Company which convened to discuss the company's

general budget and last year's final accounts as well as plans for 1989.

The company's director general said that the company last year realised a JD 1 million net profit, and nearly JD 667,000 profit made in the first three months of 1989.

The joint company, which was established in 1980, owns and operates 900 trucks and other vehicles.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Poverty widens in rural areas of U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The poor are getting poorer, especially those living in rural areas of the nation, and there are more of them, according to a private study. "In spite of the common perception of poverty as an urban phenomenon, poverty rates are higher in rural areas than urban areas," said the study by the Centre for Budget and Policy Priorities. Analysing census data on poverty from 1978 to 1987, the centre's researchers found that "the rural poverty rate rose from 13.5 per cent to 16.9 per cent" while the poverty rate in cities climbed from 15.4 per cent to 18.6 per cent during the same period. Figures in the study show more than one in six people in the rural United States fell below the federal poverty line of \$9,056 for a family of three in 1987 while the rate was one in eight for residents of metropolitan areas during that year. "In fact, the rural poverty rate for 1987 — the fifth year of an economic recovery — was as high as the rate for 1975, the deepest recession year of the 1970s," said Robert Greenstein, the centre's director.

Taiwan cuts tariff on 378 items

TAIPEI (AP) — The cabinet has approved import tariff cuts on 378 items, trying to ease concerns over inflation and to open Taiwan's market to more foreign products, the government information office said. The reductions, becoming effective May 1, covered electric home appliances, consumer products, construction and industrial materials, the agency said in a news release. The package also included 86 of the 267 items requested by the United States, it said. The statement said the government will lose about 2.66 billion Taiwan dollars (\$98.51 million) in annual tax revenue as a result of the cuts. Local economists have attributed Taiwan's increasing inflation rate in part to high import duties. In March, the consumer price index was 4.94 per cent higher than a year earlier. The government has pledged to keep inflation below three per cent this year. Last month, the finance ministry proposed to the legislative Yuan, Taiwan's parliament, a plan to slash import duties on 4,800 items. The sweeping tariff cuts would take effect in July if approved.

Moscow invites Israeli investments

TEL AVIV (AP) — Radio Moscow Thursday solicited Israeli investment in Soviet companies, saying the lack of diplomatic ties between the two countries was not an obstacle to trade. The offer was made during the station's nightly 30-minute Hebrew-language broadcast, said Israel Radio monitor Mickey Gurdus. In the past, Radio Moscow has mainly used the broadcasts for commentary sharply critical of the Jewish state. In the proposal presented Thursday, the radio station named a Soviet company for foreign trade, Belka, and provided its address, telephone and telex numbers in Moscow, Gurdus said. "They said they are ready to initiate the contacts, and later represent Israeli companies because it's quite expensive to maintain offices in the Soviet Union," Gurdus said.

Bundesbank raises key interest rates

FRANKFURT (AP) — The West German central bank Thursday surprised financial markets by raising its key discount rate to 4.5 per cent from four per cent and its Lombard rate to 6.5 per cent from six per cent. A Bundesbank statement said the higher rates were necessary to slow West Germany's monetary expansion, which continues to be stronger than acceptable in view of the central bank's stability-oriented policy. The new rates will make the central bank's loans to commercial banks more expensive and are designed to check inflation and tighten money supply. The discount rate is the cheapest, or bottom rate at which a bank can borrow funds, using treasury bills as collateral. Nearly half of bank financing comes from discount rate funds in West Germany. The Lombard rate is the rate at which Bundesbank lends short-term funds using securities as collateral and effectively represents the ceiling of the money market rates. Banks normally borrow Lombard funds only in emergencies. The rate increase follows news earlier in the day that the country's money supply expanded in March at an annualised rate of 7.3 per cent.

Adding India, S. Arabia and China

Private coalition estimates foreign copyright piracy at \$1.3b a year

WASHINGTON (AP) — A coalition of recording, film, book and computer groups has said it is adding China, Saudi Arabia and India to the ranks of "problem" nations contributing to an estimated \$1.3 billion in piracy of U.S. copyrighted works each year.

The three countries are among 12 nations that have either failed

to provide "adequate and effective" protection for U.S. copyrighted works or have limited market access for such works with unfair trade barriers, the International Intellectual Property Alliance said.

The alliance contended that the total of piracy and market access loss is costing the U.S. industry about \$1.4 billion annually.

The group said it was imperative that U.S. President George Bush's administration continue efforts begun in 1986 when Congress amended trade laws to allow sanctions against piracy and trade barriers.

Piracy has declined 50 per cent in 10 nations that were targeted problems in 1984, the alliance said, thanks in part to new copyright laws in some nations. Piracy in those 10 nations had totalled \$1.3 billion in 1984 also, the alliance said.

The 12 nations singled out by the private alliance are: China, Saudi Arabia, Korea, India, the Philippines, Taiwan, Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Thailand, Nigeria and Malaysia. Piracy losses totalled \$418 million in 1984, the alliance said.

Jack Valenti, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, said the film industry was losing \$1 billion a year from piracy and lack of access.

Nicholas Veliotas, president of the Association of American Publishers, said the International Trade Commission had estimated that total U.S. losses of intellectual property, such as patents, copyrights and trade secrets, ranged from \$60 billion to \$100 billion.

Ronald Palenski, general counsel of the Computer Software and Services Industry Association, said the theft of computer software was a particular problem in China in the hydroelectric and manufacturing industries.

lion in China in 1988; \$189 million in Saudi Arabia and \$123 million in India, the alliance said. About \$30 million was lost in India due to lack of access, the group said.

Eric Smith, general counsel to the alliance, said nine out of the 10 targeted countries in 1984 are still on the list for either copyright or market access problems. Singapore was dropped after piracy losses declined.

Jay Berman, president of the Recording Industry of America, said that in recordings alone, piracy dropped from \$400 million in 1984 to just 1 million in 1988 in Singapore and Indonesia.

"This is a tremendous achievement, but much remains to be done," Berman said.

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ANGLICAN CHURCH IN AMMAN

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES 1989

Palm Sunday, 23.4.89
8 a.m. Holy Communion
6 p.m. Family Communion, with blessing of Palms.

Maundy Thursday, 27.4.89
5.30 p.m. Commemoration of the Last Supper, with washing of the feet.

Good Friday, 28.4.89
6.30 p.m. Joint Arabic/English Service.

Holy Saturday, 29.4.89
8.00 p.m. Easter Vigil and Renewal of Baptismal Vows.

Easter Day, 30.4.89
6.00 a.m. Easter Day Sunrise Service at Mount Nebo
6.00 p.m. Easter Evening Service.

Clergy: The Revd. William Taylor 628543
The Revd. Vell Jarvinen 822605

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, April 20, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	85.4	86.1
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	406.6	410.6
Pound Sterling	918.6	928.2	Dutch guilder	256.2	258.4
Deutschemark	289.0	291.7	Swedish crown	84.9	85.7
Swiss franc	329.1	333.1	Italian lira (for 100)	39.4	39.8
			Belgian franc (for 10)	138.1	139.3

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	April 15-19	April 8-12
Daily average	JD 638,356	JD 335,621
Total volume	JD 3,191,778	JD 1,678,104
Total shares	2,229,736	876,351
No. of contracts	2,035	1,173
Sectoral trading:		
Industrial	JD 1,449,603 (45.4%)	JD 1,100,448 (65.6%)
Financial	JD 1,178,171 (36.9%)	JD 372,301 (22.2%)
Service	(15.9%)	(5.4%)
Insurance	(1.8%)	(6.8%)
Share price index	125.2	123.9
No. of companies	61	62
Price movement (rise)	26	17
(decline)	18	34
(stable)	17	11

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.7193/203	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1832/42	Canadian dollar
	1.8473/80	Deutschemarks
	2.0843/53	Dutch guilders
	1.6280/90	Swiss francs
	38.67/71	Belgian francs
	6.2620/70	French francs
	1357/1358	Italian lire
	131.30/40	Japanese yen
	6.3000/50	Swedish crowns
	6.7210/60	Norwegian crowns
	7.1910/60	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	385.00/385.30	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Shares were easier at the close of floor trading, reflecting lower closes overseas. By 0515 GMT the All Ordinaries had lost 7.5 points to 1,45.7.

TOKYO — Prices finished lower but regained most of their early sharp losses caused by Thursday's rise in West Germany's discount and Lombard rates, higher oil prices and concern Japan might raise its discount rate. The Nikkei index lost 155.34 points to close at 33,029.81 after plunging 404.63 in early trade.

HONG KONG — Afternoon profit-taking halted a rebound in Hong Kong stocks and forced the market sharply lower at the close. The Hang Seng index retreated 30.45 points to 3,109.23.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed easier and trading was less active after falls on other bourses. The Straits Times industrial index closed 5.72 points lower at 1,244.27.

BOMBAY — Share prices overcame a hesitant start to close firm on heavy speculative buying on the last day of the two-week account. Persistent rumours that the government was set to remove price controls on steel triggered heavy speculative buying. Tata Steel shot up 43.75 rupees to 1,395.

FRANKFURT — Shares slumped after Thursday's surprise Bundesbank rate rises but trade remained moderate with no strong selling pressure. The DAX index fell 13.70 to 1,376. 21.

ZURICH — Prices closed slightly lower in slow trading, with investors continuing to hold back after the Bundesbank rates rise. The All-share Swiss index fell four to 1,024.5.

PARIS — Prices were broadly higher in fairly active trading, recouping some of the losses which followed the Bundesbank announcement.

LONDON — Shares were well above their lows in late trading, helped by a surge in the Beecham price following news that Swiss drugs group Hoffmann-La Roche had asked for a share suspension pending a statement Monday. At 1500 GMT the FTSE 100 was down 3.7 at 2,060.7.

NEW YORK — Stocks were higher and steady in morning trading but interest was slight, with volume low. The Dow was up nine at 2,386.

Time's running out for U.S. soccer doyen

NEW YORK (AP) — For 10 years Rick Davis has been the most visible symbol of soccer in the United States, where the game still struggles for recognition. He has represented the United States in 85 countries and now, at 30, has one last chance to play in a World Cup.

By the time 1994 rolls around, when the United States will host the World Cup, Davis will be 35, past his prime and far above the average age of World Cup players. With the emergence of a stronger, faster and better player in the United States, Davis knows this is it.

"It's always been the ultimate," Davis said. "Whether it was the first time, back in 1981 or the second time in 1985, it's always been the ultimate thing. I don't look at this necessarily as being anymore special, but it does place a little more urgency on it."

The United States has advanced as far as it ever has in regional qualifying since the procedure was instituted for the 1954 World Cup.

With Mexico and Canada — two of the United States' major adversaries in the confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean federations — already eliminated from regional qual-

ifying, the United States has become a favorite to earn one of two berths for the final in Italy next year and has its best shot to play in a World Cup in 39 years.

Davis' first introduction to soccer was as a 7-year-old when his father took him to see a big-screen televised showing of the 1966 World Cup final between West Germany and England. It gave Davis a goal.

"Of all I wanted to accomplish in soccer, both for myself and for soccer in the United States collectively, the World Cup has been at the pinnacle of that," Davis said.

As a midfielder for the Cosmos playing with the likes of Pele, Franz Beckenbauer, Giorgio Chinaglia and Johan Neeskens, Davis helped the New York club win three North American soccer league titles.

He was an all-star in the major indoor soccer league, captained the U.S. national team for the last decade and has played more than 200 games internationally, more than 40 of them full international with the U.S. national team.

"One of the goals I set for myself, years and years ago, was to be a part of and play in a World Cup. And that's something that I haven't done yet," Davis said.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

American hockey star tests drug positive

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — American hockey player Corey Milten tested positive for a banned doping substance after a game in the world hockey championships, a team USA official said Thursday. Later Thursday, the Swedish News Agency TT reported that Milten used anabolic steroids. But there was no official confirmation from the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) Thursday night that steroids were involved. Milten, 24, who plays for HC Ambri-Piotta in Switzerland and has been one of the team standouts in the championships with two goals and one assist, insisted he did not take any drugs. Bob Johnson, the executive director of the Amateur Hockey Association of the U.S. (AHAUS), said that Milten's urine sample taken after the game against Czechoslovakia Wednesday showed traces of an illicit drug.

Davis on way to quarters

SHEFFIELD (R) — Title holder Steve Davis was well on course for the world snooker championship quarter-finals after building a 7-1 lead over Steve Duggan, the lowest-ranked player left in the tournament. Davis, bidding to equal Ray Reardon's record of six world titles, compiled five breaks of 30 or more in taking the first six frames against his fellow-Englishman, who is ranked 50th in the world. Duggan took the seventh frame after starting with an excellent break of 76 but was on the receiving end again in the eighth as Davis made a break of 59 and eventually won it 100-4.

Lewis: U.S.-USSR drugs pact isn't enough

DENVER (AP) — Olympic gold medalist Carl Lewis says the soap-to-be finalized drug-testing agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union doesn't go far enough. "I would like to see an independent agency handle all the testing," Lewis said Wednesday. "I'd like to see the programme work, because I know the U.S. Olympic Committee is very committed to fighting drugs. But I'm not sure how committed the USSR is. Can anybody be sure?" Lewis was in Denver in his role as assistant track coach at the University of Houston. The cougars signed Montebello high school sprinter Albert Ransom to a national letter-of-intent in a brief ceremony at the school Wednesday night. The USOC and the Soviet Union have signed an agreement that permits unannounced, out-of-competition testing for steroids of each nation's top athletes by the other country's doctors. Lewis, who finished second to Canadian Ben Johnson in the 100 metres at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul but was awarded the gold medal when Johnson tested positive for steroids, has been outspoken in the fight to rid track and field of steroids, to the point that he has implicated a number of prominent American athletes in drug usage.

Graham set for title fight

SHEFFIELD (AP) — Britain's Herol Graham is bringing in a highly-ranked American to make him razor sharp for his challenge for the vacant World Boxing Association middleweight title against Jamaican-born Mike McCallum on May 10. Ron Eselt, who could be fighting international boxing federation middleweight champion Michael Nunn in July, arrives Saturday to join the Graham camp that already includes unbeaten Venezuelan Crisanto Espana. "What is a few thousand dollars spent on getting Herol right?" said the 29-year-old boxer's manager, Barney Eastwood.

Jubilant Italians dominate European competition

Jubilant Italians, looking forward to three cup finals next month, heaped praise on their football heroes Thursday after their runaway success against some of the strongest opposition in Europe.

"Imperial Milan," blasted the headline in the leading sports daily Gazzetta dello Sport, celebrating AC Milan's 5-0 crushing of Real Madrid in the European Cup.

The paper described Napoli, whose fans spent much of the night noisy celebrating in the streets after their 4-2 aggregate win over West German giants Bayern Munich, as "steely". And Sampdoria, who put Belgian holders Mechelen out of the Cup Winners' Cup, were a "tornado".

"With its three finalists in all three cups, Italian soccer is proving to be at the forefront in Europe," Napoli's delighted general manager Luciano Moggi said, while Argentine captain Diego Maradona declared himself "the happiest man in the world." The only shadow over the Italian triumph was the possible absence in the European Cup final against Romania's Steaua Bucharest of Milan's Dutch star Ruud Gullit, who was flown to Rome for tests Thursday on a suspected knee cartilage injury.

Despite Barcelona's success in the Cup Winners' Cup against Sredets Sofia, the Spanish press was in black mood. "Madrid humiliated in Milan," "total failure," and "the saddest night." The headlines read after Real's worst-ever defeat in a European competition.

The Spanish league leaders look set for a shake-up following their third successive semifinal disappointment.

"There will be time to study what happened and take steps to solve the shortcomings in the future," Real president Ramon Mendoza warned.

Most of the leading European leagues, including Spain and Italy, are taking a break this weekend to prepare for World Cup qualifying matches or friendly internationals next week.

But the duel between Marseille and Paris St. Germain for the French championship continues with both clubs playing teams involved in the relegation struggle.

Leaders Marseille defend their fragile one-point lead in their visit to Caen who have slipped to 19th place with a run of poor results. It would be a surprise if Marseille, whose West German duo of Karlheinz Forster and Klaus Allofs are in great form, failed to bring back all three points.

Paris St. Germain should also prove too strong for their struggling neighbours Matra Racing at the Parc Des Princes.

Sochaux, who visit Toulouse, and Auxerre, who are at home to Nice, also need victories to keep in the title race.

English clubs take further measures

Hooligan fences come down

LONDON (R) — Soccer fans at several English league grounds will watch their teams from fenceless terraces Saturday, following the disaster at Sheffield Wednesday's Hillsborough stadium last week.

Derby, Tottenham and Norwich have removed perimeter fences, designed to stop pitch invasions, after seeing how 95 fans were crushed to death during an F.A. Cup semifinal between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest last Saturday.

Newcastle United are to remove barriers from two sides of their ground after consulting police, while Ipswich are taking down a portion of fence at the visitors' section of their north stand.

Sheffield United, Wednesday's neighbours, announced that part of the perimeter fencing at Bramhall Lane is to be removed. Other clubs have added extra gates to the fencing, to allow supporters to spill on to the pitch in an emergency.

Liverpool, worst hit by the tragedy when hundreds of their fans squeezed and pressed into one end of the Hillsborough

ground, decided Thursday night to pull down all their fencing before playing at home again.

The club have also decided to consult an architect about the possibility of making their Anfield ground an all-seater venue — closing the famous Kop terrace where the most ardent fans gather.

Liverpool, in deep mourning, have postponed their top-of-the-table clash with Arsenal Sunday and are expected to resume playing on May 3 in an away derby match against Everton. Their city rivals plan to have removed their fences before the game.

The Football League gave permission for all clubs to postpone their weekend matches, but most are expected to play after observing a minute's silence in memory of the Hillsborough dead.

With Arsenal and Liverpool out of action, the focus will be on the relegation struggle.

Second from bottom Newcastle, with only two goals in their last four games, could recall leading scorer Mirandinha for their home game against fellow-strugglers Luton. The Brazilian international was dropped when Newcastle lost 1-0 at Arsenal last week.

Bottom club West Ham hope either Tony Gale or Paul Hilton will be fit to bolster their weakened central defence.

Both started training this week after suffering knee injuries and manager John Lyall thinks both have a chance of making the starting line-up against Millwall in the east London derby at Upton Park.

Fourth-from-bottom Charlton should be at full strength for the visit of Manchester United.

Charlton are still seven points off manager Lenny Lawrence's 40-point safety target but he remains confident they will escape relegation for the third year running.

"It's still very tight but we have got games in hand now," he said.

McEnroe, Lendl push through

TOKYO (R) — John McEnroe survived a shaky start, interruptions and controversial line calls to win a place in the semifinals at the Japan Open tennis tournament Friday.

But the top two seeds, Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia and Sweden's Stefan Edberg, had few problems making the final four in the \$752,500 competition.

Third-seeded McEnroe's magic touch deserted him in the first set of his 2-6, 6-4, 6-1 victory over fellow American Brad Gilbert, but he was later able to take advantage of his opponent's loss of concentration.

Gilbert, seeded fifth, never seemed to recover from a line call against him when he was 30-15 up in the first game of the third set with McEnroe serving.

He clutched his head, slammed his racket into the ground, walked round in circles and then, after losing the game, walked over to the relevant linesman and pummelled a ball into the wall beside him 10 times.

"I hoped that he would remain upset about it," said defending champion McEnroe, adding that a break to fix the net in the third set seemed to bother Gilbert more than himself.

McEnroe, who began a successful comeback to tennis by winning here last year, blamed a swirling wind for his relatively poor 60 per cent record of winners at the net.

Lendl, seeded nine aces and pulled off some unusually good net play in a resounding 6-2, 6-2 win over former world junior champion Nicolas Pereira.

The powerful 18-year-old gave Lendl a run for his money in the first few games but floundered later as the world number one whipped in some hostile serves and angled his returns inches inside the line.

"I guess you can tell he (Pereira) is young," said Lendl. "I started serving really well and he was always under pressure and

I was never under pressure." Even at the net — Lendl's fabled Achilles' heel — he won over 80 per cent of the points he contested.

He meets unseeded American Richard Matuszewski in Saturday's semifinal while McEnroe does battle with Edberg.

Edberg displayed athletic, flowing serve-and-volley tennis to win his match 6-4, 6-2 and terminate a giant-killing run by unseeded American Scott Davis.

Davis had beaten Sweden's Mikael Pernfors, the eighth seed, and ninth seed Amos Mansdorf to earn his clash with Edberg.

But the Wimbledon champion

was on form. "I did not drop a service game and served some big serves when it mattered," Edberg said after the match.

Matuszewski ousted Australia's last hope, unseeded Jason Stoltenberg, in a close 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 tussle.

In the women's semifinals, Australian Elizabeth Smylie beat compatriot and top seed Anne Minter after a 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 duel.

Minter squandered five match points in the final tie-break to hand Smylie a place in the final against Japan's Kumiko Okamoto, who upset second seed Belinda Cordwell of New Zealand 6-2, 6-4.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
1980 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A ♠ AKQJ7 ♠ 874 ♠ AK3
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?

A.—We are sure that there'll be votes for a direct cue-bid of two spades, a takeout double or a jump to four hearts. Our choice is none of the above—we would bid three no trump! With any lead other than a diamond, we should be able to claim nine tricks; and even if the opponents find a diamond lead, there's no guarantee that they can take five tricks.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ J6 ♠ KJ5 ♠ AKQ107 ♠ AQ4
Your right-hand opponent opens three hearts. What action do you take?

A.—You can't double because you don't have spades and you might not come close to 11 tricks at diamonds. We'd gamble on three no trump—the odds are pretty good that partner will have the cards we need to collect nine tricks, as well as the half-stopper in spades.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ Q107 ♠ A6 ♠ K95 ♠ AQ765
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

A.—This is no time for dragging your feet. You have a good hand, stoppers in all suits and a sure source of tricks, since partner almost surely has a six-card diamond suit and you have a key flier. Bid three no trump.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you

hold:
♠ AQ74 ♠ 6 ♠ KJ952 ♠ 873
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

A.—Since partner almost surely has four spades on this auction, we would opt for four spades. However, if you feel the urgent need to check on whether partner does, indeed, have four spades, we would accept a cue-bid of two hearts.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ K1076 ♠ 5 ♠ KJ6 ♠ 98652
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass
What action do you take?

A.—In standard methods, partner is showing a balanced hand of about 21 points. With your 7 points, you should be content to try for nine tricks in no trump rather than 11 at clubs, despite your five-card club support and singleton heart. Pass.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 954 ♠ 7 ♠ AK9872 ♠ A63
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?

A.—You know your side has at least an eight-card spade fit, and you have a very fine hand for partner—three prime cards, three trumps and a singleton. Three diamonds is a terrible bid—it shows a sub-minimum two-over-one response. If you bid anything other than four spades, you need to haul out that book on bidding theory.

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

by Thomas Plerson, Astrologer, Carroll Righer Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A much improved situation appears today. Communications and attitudes are more positive. There are still unsettled questions, along with a desire for change. Plan carefully.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) The morning hours are harmonious. Rigid schedules lead to chaotic situations later. Flexibility is your best friend.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Handle siblings like any good trail boss would, and keep activities moving on schedule. You encounter opposition and challenges.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) While you are in such an active cycle remember the budget and your cash flow. Hold back on any chance for a new romance.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) It is a good time to move forward with an important project. A neutral attitude will help to solve a sibling problem.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Here is a fine day for love, beauty, romance and even marriage — for some. Planning ahead seems out of the question.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Outside activities will stimulate you.

Avoid any needless purchases, but check the quality if you do buy. Choose your words carefully today. LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You have been here before. A time when decisions must be made, and that is no easy task. Meanwhile, sleep on it and have some casual fun.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Just when you think everything is settled, it is pressure time again. Don't make any demands on anyone.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Mental and emotional vigor are at a high point. Over confidence, along with a sharp tongue, can get you in hot water.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) It's a good time for rest and reflection. The day moves along at a steady pace. Love and creative thinking grow.

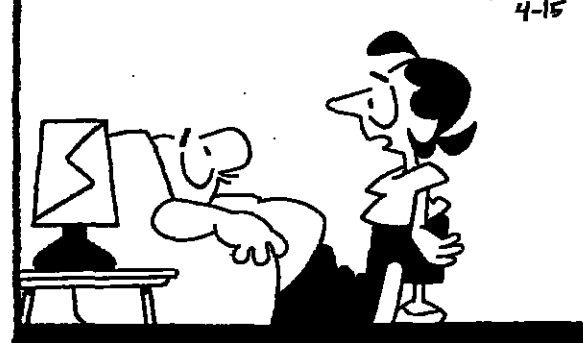
AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Communication skills are at their best. Take a reasonable attitude when young family members scrap. A friend lends insight.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You can win a mental fight today that affects future events. Begin plans that will result in a vigorous new self-image.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

HARRIS 4-15



"For this year's spring cleaning project let's clean up the mess we've made of our marriage."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME.

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

REMEG

SYKAH

CADEED

FALLUW



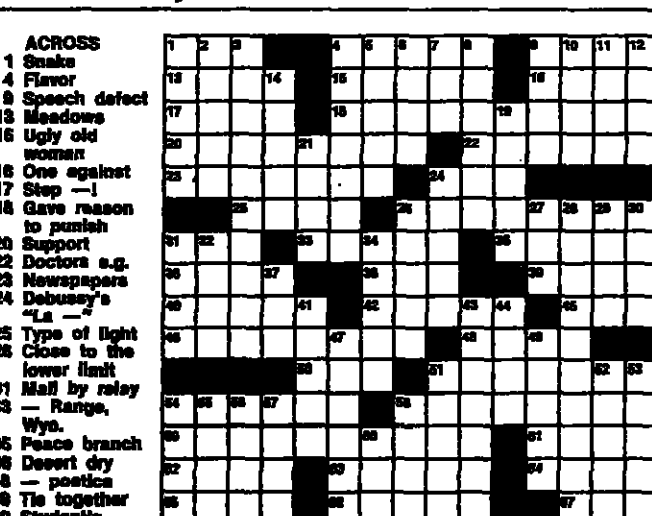
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: A

Yesterday's Jumble: DOUGH FLOOD LEAVEN UTMOST

Answer: A conversation between a traffic cop and a driver—A MONOLOGUE

THE Daily Crossword by Craig Schultz



- ACROSS
- 1 Snake
 - 4 Flavor
 - 8 Speech defect
 - 13 Meadows
 - 15 Ugly old woman
 - 16 One against
 - 17 Step
 - 18 Gave reason to punish
 - 20 Support
 - 22 Doctors e.g.
 - 23 Newspapers
 - 24 Debussy's "La"
 - 25 Type of light
 - 26 Close to the lower limit
 - 31 Mail by relay
 - 33 Range
 - 35 Peace branch
 - 36 Desert dry
 - 38 active position
 - 39 The together
 - 40 Student's second course
 - 42 Parasite
 - 43 Aster and Ames
 - 44 Horse
 - 46 Enthusiasm
 - 48 Howl of a dog
 - 51 Hair
 - 54 Sp. friends
 - 55 Malicious
 - 56 US acting champion
 - 61 — bean
 - 62 Angers
 - 63 Draw out
 - 64 Explorer Hadin
 - 65 Original words
 - 66 More astute
 - 67 Terminate
- DOWN
- 1 With raised voice
 - 2 Cathartic
 - 3 Returned a favor
 - 4 Triangle type
 - 5 Upstart
 - 6 Prod
 - 7 Unit
 - 8 More finished
 - 9 Action country
 - 10 About
 - 11 Move
 - 12 Racing car
 - 13 steps
 - 14 Memorial slab
 - 15 Abetain from
 - 21 Very funny one
 - 24 Parson's place
 - 25 Folkways
 - 26 Sled
 - 28 Eager
 - 29 Allow
 - 30 Solo
 - 34 Lopsided
 - 37 Nothing plate
 - 41 Automation
 - 42 Workshop
 - 43 Envelope
 - 47 Exchanges for money
 - 48 Perce
 - 51 Quickly
 - 52 Optical unit
 - 53 Airplane
 - 54 Mine entrance
 - 55 Nothing but
 - 56 Goat
 - 57 Main idea
 - 58 Comedian
 - 59 Haron room

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp





A Chinese soldier grapples with a wreath shoved through the gate of Zhongnanhai compound in Peking by students seeking to honour Hu Yaobang.

Workers join students in protests

Massive crowds pour into Peking

PEKING (R) — Tens of thousands of students and workers poured into Peking's Tiananmen Square Friday night in defiance of official warnings against anti-government protests.

Swarming around the People's Heroes Monument in the centre of the vast square, people laid wreaths and made dedications to former communist party leader Hu Yaobang whose death last Saturday ignited the week of demonstrations.

From north Peking, a Reuter correspondent reported that more than 5,000 students from Peking University were setting out for a 15-kilometre march to the square.

Chanting slogans they called for "real democracy," freedom of speech and an "end to dictatorship."

A red-lettered banner which onlookers said had been written in blood was unfurled at the foot of the Monument to the People's Heroes.

The author, an unnamed worker, praised Hu as a great leader and said he had been unfairly treated.

Hu died Saturday after two years in political limbo following his forced resignation as party chief for allegedly allowing the spread of "bourgeois liberalism" or Western political ideas.

Several students from Tianjin's

Nankai University arrived in the square, the first undergraduates to travel to the capital to join the protests.

Hundreds of people close to the monument sang the communist anthem the Internationale as a crowd of more than 10,000 formed around them.

"Long live democracy and freedom," one group of students called out, in defiance of stern official warnings not to use Hu's death for political purposes.

Hu, who presided over a cultural thaw during his time in power, has in death become a symbol of democratic ideals and won a following among students greater than he ever enjoyed while alive.

Railway workers also carried a wreath to the foot of the monument, prompting students to say they were excited that some non-students were willing to join them.

The People's Daily Friday warned students against further anti-government protests, saying authorities had so far been tolerant.

"If there are people who see the government's patience as a sign of weakness, and stubbornly

persist, they will taste their own bitter fruit," it said.

Earlier announcements said mourning activities for Hu should be confined to workplaces and should not pass the party and government headquarters, the scene of massive anti-government protests during the last few days.

Chinese campuses were plastered with powerfully-worded posters attacking the government response to the unrest.

"Our protests are criticised for destroying national stability and unity. Yet we have soaring inflation, party corruption and economic chaos. Who is really responsible for this instability?" said one poster at the People's University.

The wave of protest has thrown up a host of different grievances and viewpoints. One poster, written in English, urged People's University students to "trust in God" as a solution to "this unbearable life," while others called for increased pay for college teachers.

Another, sarcastically attacking the calibre of China's senior politicians, was titled "Memo on the selection of state leaders." The qualifications required to be a leader, it said, were:

"One, minimum age at least 80. Two, maximum education primary school level. Three, no brain. Four, good connections. Five, willingness to eat and drink the food and blood of the people."

Walesa pursues Western support

ROME (R) — Solidarity leader Lech Walesa told Italy Friday that Poland desperately needed full Western support if vast economic, political and social reforms were to succeed.

Italian leaders told him the West should seize on current worldwide popular enthusiasm for a new Poland and help rebuild the country.

"We are not here to ask for a handout but for investment and cooperation," Walesa told Prime Minister Ciriaco De Mita on the penultimate day of his four-day visit to Rome.

It is Walesa's first trip abroad since an April 5 government-opposition agreement paved the way for a major political liberalisation in Poland and restored legal status to his union.

Once disgraced by his government, Walesa's credibility in the West has made him Poland's de facto chief representative in the search for Western investment and cooperation.

Walesa told De Mita that in the past eight years Poland had been drained of its best educated people. "We have no more managers, we have no technology," he said.

He said the new Poland needed foreign help to create companies and a market rather than direct aid for the purchase of consumer goods and would be ripe for profitable investment.

Walesa told De Mita that one of Solidarity's main objectives was to dismantle the Polish Communist Party's total control over all aspects of economic life.

Both De Mita and Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, whom Walesa met earlier, assured him that Italy would help in every way possible.

Italy would continue to support moves within the Paris Club, which handles debt negotiations on behalf of Western creditor nations, to reschedule Poland's foreign debt, Andreotti said.

Walesa told Andreotti that the April 5 accord could lead to the elimination of the root causes of Poland's economic crisis. "Polish potential can now express itself," Walesa said.

Andreotti said several forms of aid were being studied.

An accord between Rome and Warsaw for the reciprocal protection of investments would probably be signed during a trip by Italian President Francesco Cossiga to Poland next month, he said.



SWAPO members hold a memorial rally for their comrades killed in clashes with South African forces.

Pretoria offers 60 hours free passage to SWAPO

CAPE TOWN (R) — South African troops in Namibia will be confined to base for 60 hours next week to give South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) guerrillas time to leave the territory unhindered, Foreign Minister P. W. Botha said Friday.

"South Africa gives the assurance that SWAPO infiltrators will be allowed unhindered return to Angola during the period in question," Botha said in a statement.

The decision followed border talks Thursday with representatives from Angola and Cuba on ways to speed up the withdrawal of SWAPO guerrillas from Namibia to bases in Angola.

Botha said the ceasefire period would begin at 6 p.m. (1600 GMT) Wednesday, when six South African-led battalions would be confined to bases in northern Namibia.

The units, comprising an estimated 4,000 men, were released from confinement to base April 1 when SWAPO guerrillas infiltrated from Angola in defiance

of an international plan for Namibian independence after 73 years of South African rule.

At least 281 guerrillas and 27 security force members have died in fierce battles between the two sides since U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar agreed to unleash the South African forces.

South African government spokesman Roland Darroll said the restriction would not apply to the South African-led police in Namibia.

The United Nations Friday deployed the first 72 Irish, Swedish and Dutch police monitors to positions in northern Namibia where they will supervise the work of the local police under the terms of an agreement on Namibian independence.

Darroll said the confinement to base would be made permanent if the last of the 1,600 SWAPO fighters left Namibia by the end of the ceasefire period announced Friday.

"If all the SWAPO people leave Namibia then the independ-

ence plan will be back on track and South Africa will be obliged to resume the confinement of the security forces to their bases," he said.

S. Africans still in control

In Ruacana, on the Angola-Namibia border, the blue and white United Nations flag has been flying since April 1, but three weeks after the start of the U.N. independence plan for the South African-ruled territory, it is still South African troops and border police who decide who can enter and who can leave Namibia.

White South African and black Namibian troops with automatic rifles and ammunition belts stopped a truckload of Angolan and Soviet officials and foreign journalists from crossing into Namibia from Angola Thursday.

They were on their way to the emergency talks with South African officials and U.S. observers on problems hampering the SWAPO withdrawal.

India cancels missile test

CHANDIPUR, India (Agencies) — India cancelled the launch of its first intermediate-range ballistic missile Thursday minutes before liftoff after the ignition system of the 7.5-ton rocket developed a technical glitch, military sources said.

The missile, with a range of 2,500 kilometres, was scheduled to be launched from a remote seaside site in the eastern state of Orissa.

"We had to postpone the launch at the last stage," said a senior military official at the Chandipur launch site, 1,200 kilometres southeast of New Delhi. "The countdown had started, but the computer reading showed a snag in the ignition system. So we had to postpone the launching."

Another military official said

the delay "came as a shock."

"We were depending on the scientists, but at the last minute we were told that the launching would have been disastrous," he said.

Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity. Indian officials say the Agni test is related to the country's ambitious, but so far generally unsuccessful, space programme.

They said it could be used to launch observation satellites to monitor any confidence-building measures agreed with Pakistan, against which India has fought three wars.

Pakistan, which has tested short- and medium-range missiles of its own this year, is likely to be nervous over India's development of the Agni, Western diplomats say.

The delay of the Agni test will also give the Indian government a local headache.

As a safety precaution, it had to pressure 11,000 highly reluctant people to move out of their villages near the test site ahead of the scheduled launch, sparking demonstrations from people who did not want to move out, even temporarily, and from pacifists.

The government will now have to do the job all over again. Since April 1987, India has successfully tested three types of surface-to-air and surface-to-surface missiles, with ranges varying from nine kilometres to 250 kilometres.

Military test-firing is nothing new in Chandipur, where the colonial British set up an arms and ammunition test range 95 years ago.

Lucrative drug trade — 'equal opportunities'

By Leslie Gevirtz
Reuters

NEW YORK — Equal opportunities have arrived in the drug world in the United States as more women break through discrimination barriers in this lucrative trade.

"Drugs are an equal opportunity field," said Andrew Maloney, the federal prosecutor for the eastern district of New York.

"While there have always been women in the drug business as 'mules,' or couriers, we expect to see more of them moving into the upper echelons," he said.

Victor Pedallino, a special agent of the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (FDEA) echoed that prediction.

"In the 1990s I expect to see more and more women being indicted. The drug business mirrors today's business world," Pedallino said.

"As women are moving up in the business world they are also moving up in the drug trade," he said. "Nowadays, if a woman can handle money-laundering either because she's got an MBA (Masters in Business degree) or an understanding of banking, she is certainly going to move up."

Pedallino points to the case of Eucaris Ceballos. Dubbed "Donna Tulia" by her minions as a sign of respect, Ceballos headed a cocaine ring in New York with weekly sales of 100 kilograms of the narcotic worth ab-

out \$20 million.

The small, slight Colombian grandmother used the latest in technology and marketing techniques to distribute the cocaine along the east coast.

Her 21-member ring preferred cellular telephones to foil wire taps and marketed cocaine under the brand name "Reina," Spanish for queen. Authorities said the "Reina" brand maintained a consistent high quality.

Ceballos was sentenced to life imprisonment without parole after her conviction last September — punishment mandated by federal sentencing guidelines.

Women on their way up in the drug business tend to dress for success, and one of the most successful was the stylish Gulay Erginer, owner of a Madison Avenue beauty salon, recalls former federal prosecutor Cecilia Gardener.

Known as the "Turkish godmother," Erginer, a naturalised U.S. citizen, hired as her drug couriers young women with aspirations of working their way to the top.

Not your typical "mules," the sophisticated-looking women who smuggled more than \$400 million worth of Turkish heroin into the United States for Erginer also worked as fashion consultants and sales persons.

Then-federal prosecutor and now Federal Judge Reena Raggi said Erginer's arrest in 1986 signified an increase in dealing by non-traditional organised

crime figures. In March 1987 she was sentenced to six years in prison and fined \$100,000.

The non-traditional label can certainly be applied to Maryann Hanna, a Pennsylvania woman who headed a heroin network that helped bring the drug to New Castle, Pennsylvania.

From her small community about 80 kilometres north of Pittsburgh, Hanna operated the American side of a multi-million-dollar heroin ring that authorities said had links to Lebanon.

The 32-year-old Hanna emigrated to the United States from a rural Lebanese village in the early 1970s. To her New Castle neighbours she was just another housewife. To Detroit drug dealers she was a supplier.

Hanna oversaw the importation and distribution of heroin and then converted the profits into cashier's cheques of under \$10,000 to avoid government income-reporting requirements.

She would send her couriers to Lebanon with money, and they would return with more heroin, said New York federal prosecutor Cheryl Pollak, who handled the case because two of Hanna's "mules" were caught in New York.

Arrested in January 1988, Hanna has pleaded guilty to federal narcotics charges. She faces a maximum of 40 years in prison when Federal Judge Raymond Dearie sentences her later this spring.

COLUMN

Protected species end up as gourmets

BELING (AP) — More than 100 species of animals in China under state protection face extinction because of illegal trapping and smuggling, at times for gourmet restaurants specialising in rare dishes, the official China Daily reported Thursday. The newspaper said there are fewer than 100 gibbons surviving in the wild, and only 200 river dolphins. The report, quoting the Forestry Ministry's wildlife management division, said there are 30 sand badgers, 40 Northeast China tigers, snow leopards and giant pandas, believed to number about 1,000, are also endangered. It said many of the illegal hunters are supplying "wild taste" restaurants in Guangdong province and other coastal areas. Others are killing animals for parts used in Oriental medicines. China's one million musk deer could become extinct within five years due to the killing of the deer for the illegal smuggling of musk, it said.

Leaning to season?

PISA, Italy (AP) — The Leaning Tower of Pisa will be measured every three months instead of just once a year to see if the change of the seasons affect the landmark's listing, scientists said Monday. Since 1913, the angle of the 800-year-old tower's leaning from the vertical has been measured annually at the end of June. This year a reading was taken in March, and other measurements will be taken at the end of June, September, and December. "There was no particular cause for alarm that made us make this decision in January," said Professor Brunetto Palla, of the University of Pisa, who studies the tower. "We are very curious to see whether the change of seasons has an effect on the tower." The March 17 collapse of a 900-year-old tower in Pavia has raised concerns over the stability and safety of Italy's monuments. Four people were killed in the Pavia tragedy. Palla stressed that there was no connection between the disaster and the current programme of measuring. The first of the "new" measurements was taken at the end of March and did not show any notable variations from last June's measurement of 1.29 millimetres. The 54-metre-tall marble monument, construction of which was undertaken in 1173, showed a tendency to lean when it was only 10 metres high after the soil beneath it began to subside.

Paleolithic bones found in Korea

SEOUL (AP) — Human remains discovered in a cave have been identified as those of a child dating from the Paleolithic Age, a member of an ancient tribe that inhabited the Korean Peninsula some 40,000 years ago, anthropologists said. The skeleton remains belonged to a five-year-old boy of an ancient tribe called "Sulgi Sulgi" that dwelled in mountain caves, said Lee Yung-Jo and Pak Seon-Ju, anthropologists from Chungbuk University in the provincial city of Chongju, southwest of Seoul. The findings will be reported to an anthropological exhibition in Nagoya, Japan, April 29, the anthropologists said, and the university plans to invite foreign experts to South Korea to verify the discovery. A joint statement from the professors said the bones were discovered six years ago in Chungchong, a mountainous province known for its many caves in the central part of the country and an area targeted by archaeological teams since 1976. The child's bones were collected and rebuilt, the statement said, adding that the child appeared to have died from malnutrition.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	04	29	10 50 Clear
ATHENS	13	26	24 75 Clear
BANGKOK	23	32	93 Clear
BOMBAY	27	36	87 Clear
BUENOS AIRES	14	25	57 Clear
CAIRO	17	34	63 Clear
CHICAGO	08	21	69 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	01	14	57 Clear
FRANKFURT	05	13	55 Rain
HAMBURG	06	17	63 Clear
HONG KONG	24	28	81 Cloudy
ISTANBUL	10	20	68 Clear
LONDON	05	11	50 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	16	26	78 Cloudy
MADRID	08	19	66 Clear
MECCA	28	39	102 Cloudy
MIAMI	23	33	76 Cloudy
MONTREAL	02	11	52 M
MOSCOW	08	16	61 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	20	37	96 Clear
NEW YORK	01	14	57 Clear
PARIS	05	12	54 Cloudy
ROME	07	24	76 Rain
TOKYO	14	20	68 Clear
WASHINGTON	08	18	65 Clear

M — Indicates missing information

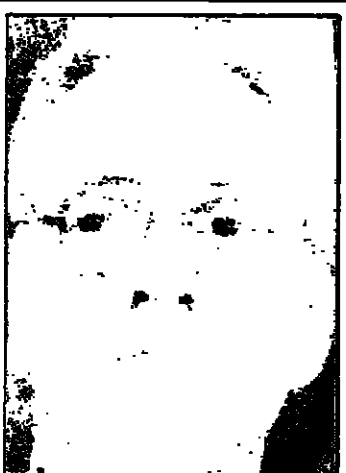
Wright hits back at ethics panel

WASHINGTON (AP) — House of Representatives Speaker Jim Wright accused the ethics committee of dragging its feet on allegations against him Thursday, while the Republican leader who brought the charges suggested Democrats would try to nudge Wright aside before his case can reach the full house.

"I would be very surprised if the senior members of the Democratic leadership don't try to talk the speaker into stepping down before going through the agony of a public defence, public cross examination," said Congressman Newt Gingrich.

Meanwhile, published reports indicated that a Texas oil deal that brought a huge profit to Wright last year involved businessmen with an interest in a \$3-billion air force jet trainer programme now being studied by Congress.

On Capitol Hill, Wright said "we've met all the requirements" to move to the next phase of the case, in which the Texas Democrat wants to confront his accus-



Jim Wright

ers personally and try to knock down the 69 formal allegations issued by the ethics committee Monday.

The speaker particularly blamed special outside counsel Richard J. Phelan for what he termed the delay. "I'm puzzled as to why he is dragging his feet," Wright told a reporter. "We're very anxious to have the matter resolved as soon as possible."

"It's a little bit distracting that I write letters to the chairman and ranking minority member of the committee and get a reply from Mr. Phelan, and it's always some foot dragging," Wright said. "I'm anxious to let them ask me questions. I am certain the charges can be answered emphatically and absolutely."

American colonel slain in Manila

MANILA (Agencies) — Hooded gunmen killed a U.S. military officer Friday as he was driving to work at the joint U.S. military advisory group headquarters outside Manila, U.S. and Filipino officials said.

U.S. embassy spokesman Jerry Huchel said army Colonel James N. Rowe, 51, a decorated war hero who escaped from a Viet Cong prison, was pronounced dead on arrival at a Philippine military hospital. His body was flown to Clark air base 80 kilometres north of Manila.

Col. Victor Tiangco of the Philippine military's capital region command said Rowe, who was from Texas, was chief of the army division at the Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group (JUSMAG).

He said Rowe's chauffeur, Joaquin Vinuya, was wounded in the shooting but was reported out of danger.

No group claimed responsibility, but communist rebels have threatened attacks on U.S. military personnel because of Washington's support of President Corason Aquino.

The assailants opened fire with M-16 rifles as the victim's car approached the group compound in suburban Quezon City about 7:10 a.m. (2310 GMT), Tiangco

said. He said 21 bullets struck the car.

The assailants sped away. Witnesses told the AP the victim's car was able to reach the compound, about two blocks from the shooting.

Friends of Rowe in the U.S. diplomatic community said the victim was captured by Viet Cong forces but escaped from a prison camp five years later.

Rowe was survived by a wife and two children, friends said. In October 1987, communist rebels killed three Americans and a Filipino of U.S. descent in simultaneous attacks near Clark air base.

The rebels have threatened more attacks. U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said any future attacks would probably be directed against soldiers assigned to the advisory group.

The group provides training and logistical support to the 160,000-member armed forces of the Philippines.

On April 9, rebels blasted a U.S. military communications installation in Benguet province. No one was injured, but U.S. officials asked that security around U.S. installations be tightened.

سكنا من لاصول